

6-1987

## Our Paper 06/1987

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# Our Paper

FREE

Vol. 4, No. 10

June, 1987

A  
VOICE  
FOR  
LESBIANS  
AND  
GAY MEN  
IN MAINE

## Judiciary Committee Hears Civil Rights Testimony

by Brenda Buchanan

A few hours after the funeral of its most longstanding legislative supporter, the civil rights bill for lesbians and gay men was the subject of a public hearing before the Judiciary Committee May 11. More than a score of lesbians, gay men and friends of the community testified in favor of the bill, which Larry Connolly had championed, session after session.

The hearing was dedicated to Connolly, a veteran Portland representative who, as Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Joseph Brannigan said, "was the prime sponsor of this effort" during the 12 years lesbian and gay activists have been petitioning lawmakers for civil rights.

Connolly, 43, died three days before the hearing, during surgery following a heart attack.

It was evident that his death, and the honorable way he lived his life, were foremost in many minds. The voices of committee members, other legislators, and the lesbians and gay men who knew Connolly often were choked with tears; several used examples of his selfless struggle to guarantee justice for all people as a starting point for their testimony.

"Larry was a giant, a real friend of the downtrodden," Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance president Dale McCormick said in preface to her prepared remarks. "Even something as important as civil rights pales in comparison with the death of Larry Connolly."

But, McCormick said, Connolly would have wanted the hearing to go on as sche-

ments from nature and character, the moral arguments" voiced by opponents of L.D. 602 were similar to those used by proponents of slavery, Camden resident Sadhbh Neilan drew parallels between the two civil rights movements.

"(Opponents of lesbian/gay civil rights) would have you believe that we must be denied protection from discrimination in order to restrain us from seducing youth and molesting children. How reminiscent of the arguments of the slaveholders who reasoned that bondage was necessary to protect society from the beastial depredations of degraded Africans," she said.

"I think it's time this biannual circus ended; we've been coming here for 12 years in pursuit of our civil rights. The fact of the matter is that lesbians and gay men are no better nor worse than the general run of

### Update

In late May, the Judiciary Committee sent L.D. 602, the civil rights bill for lesbians and gay men, to the Legislature with a 7-6 "ought not to pass" recommendation.

The vote disappointed the bill's backers, who believed at least a simple majority of Judiciary Committee members would recommend passage, if not a substantial majority.

The bill was scheduled to go to the floor in the Senate on the morning of May 27. Passage in the Senate would send it to the House that same afternoon; defeat would mean the House would consider it May 28.

## Celebrate!

Inside: Pages 8-9

## Portland Pride '87 Symposium XIV

the lack of civil rights protection for lesbians and gay men is a "significant barrier" in the battle against AIDS, because the possibility of discrimination keeps people from seeking information and medical advice.

She said passage of a bill that would add "sexual orientation" to the list of protected categories in the Maine Human Rights Act would be "a majority statement of assurance to an embattled minority." She ended her testimony by asking: "Must others die of ignorance and homophobia?"

Fred Rabidoux, an MLGPA steering committee member from Portland, reminded the committee of the constitutionally-mandated separation of church and state. He noted all of the bill's opponents identified themselves as members of fundamentalist religious groups. After lis-

tening to their statements, Rabidoux said, he concluded they felt the state's laws should reflect their specific view of moral propriety. He said if the committee and full legislature accept the opponents' arguments, the rights of other citizens will be "diminished because a political body took action based on the religious views of morality of a select group."

### Legislators' Testimony

The committee was prepared for the usual emotional debate. Brannigan opened the hearing by saying while people were welcome to speak with the intensity they felt, disrespectful testimony wouldn't be tolerated.

House Chair Patrick Paradis echoed

*continued on page 5*

## 'Politics' Charged in AIDS Committee Leadership Change

by Brenda Buchanan

In what was seen by AIDS activists as a purely political move, Governor John McKernan has replaced the chairpeople who have led the state AIDS Advisory Committee since last September with a pair of Republicans.

Stepping down after the May 18 meeting were chairperson Charlene Rydell, a Democratic state representative from Brunswick, and vice chair Michael Bach, a Portland physician who works with many people with AIDS.

Owen Pickus, an osteopathic physician who also works with PWAs, and who is active in state GOP causes, will take over as chair. Sen. Barbara Gill of South Portland will be vice-chair.

The announcement of the change confirmed for Advisory Committee members rumors they'd been hearing for a week. Several openly indicated their displeasure after newly-appointed Associate Deputy Human Services Commissioner Trish Riley announced the change at the May meeting.

"I just hope this ends the political football game the government is playing with AIDS," Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance president Dale McCormick said. "AIDS is too big for politics. It's not Democrats and it's not Republicans."

Perry Sutherland, the National Association of Social Workers' representative on the committee, said he was disappointed because the group had to struggle to reach mutual respect and trust, and he feared a leadership change might mean repeating the process.

Peggy Quinlan, representing Maine's hospices, also chalked the change up to politics, and said such considerations take energy away from an already-overburdened committee.

No one expressed a lack of confidence in Pickus or Gill, but several committee members said they did not understand why a change was necessary, because Rydell and Bach were doing an exemplary job.

Riley explained the move by saying changes are occurring throughout the DHS due to the change from former Governor Joseph Brennan's administration to McKernan's.

Pickus has been a member of the committee since its inception, and has attended most meetings, according to records. Gill originally was appointed to serve as the Senate's representative, but she never was sworn in and never attended a meeting. Personal schedule conflicts were said to have been the cause of her failure to become active, committee members said.

Rydell, who several committee members called a one-woman political tour de force on AIDS in Maine, said she'll remain on the committee, as her term runs concurrently with her term in the House.

"My commitment to what we're working for has not changed," she said.



photo: Elze

The hearing room in the State Office Building was packed throughout the afternoon.

duled, because he believed that the campaign for human justice shouldn't pause until all were free.

### Proponents' Arguments

The testimony of those favoring the bill was personal and philosophical.

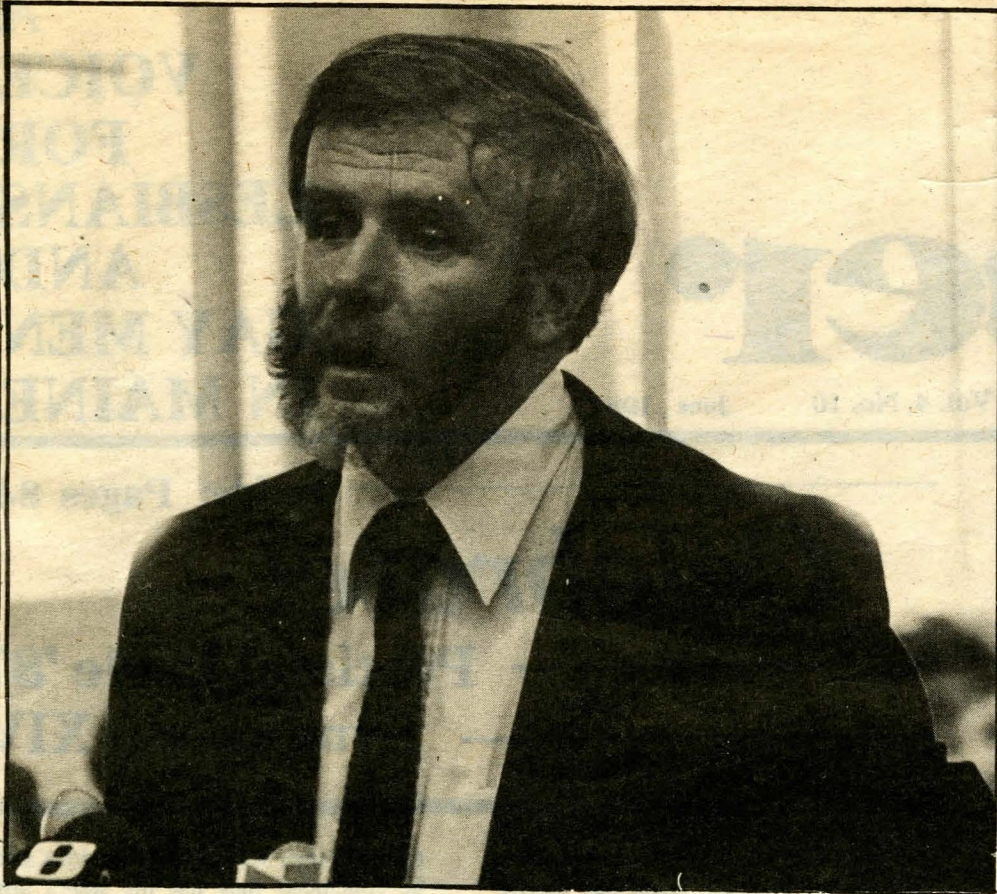
Saying "the biblical arguments, the argu-

humanity. Yet, we are being denied the civil rights of every Maine citizen because of prejudice. This prejudice is unsubstantiated and irrational, and must be dismissed for the contemptible, foul-mouthed bigotry that it is."

Dr. Lani Graham, director of the Bureau of Health's division of disease control, said



## In Memoriam



### Rep. Laurence E. Connolly Jr.

*It could have been me  
but instead it was you  
So we'll keep doing the work  
you were doing as if we were two  
We'll be students of life, singers of songs,  
Farmers of food and righters of wrongs  
It could have been me  
but instead it was you  
And it may be us dear sisters and brothers  
before we are through  
But if he can die for freedom,  
freedom, freedom, freedom  
If he can die for freedom, we can too.\**

Champion, hero, friend, ally and comrade. No one embodied the true meaning of those words more than Laurence E. Connolly Jr. Connolly, an eight-term Portland legislator, died May 8 during surgery following a severe heart attack he suffered earlier that week.

With Larry's death, Maine's gay and lesbian community has lost one of our strongest advocates, as have low-income and working people in Maine, women, old people, children, and people with disabilities.

For over a decade, Larry was the driving force behind the introduction of the gay and lesbian civil rights bill in the Maine legislature.

Larry was also a husband, a father, a neighborhood organizer, a Red Sox and Celtics lover, and a compassionate and caring friend.

He lived as he believed — that his life was inextricably linked to all others, that the oppression of one person means the oppression of all people, that discrimination must be eradicated wherever it exists.

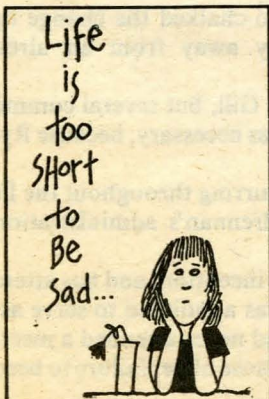
We feel honored that he called us his friends. We feel honored that he championed gay and lesbian civil rights. We also know that he felt honored by our friendship and love.

Thank you Laurence E. Connolly Jr. for giving so much of yourself so selflessly and for so long.

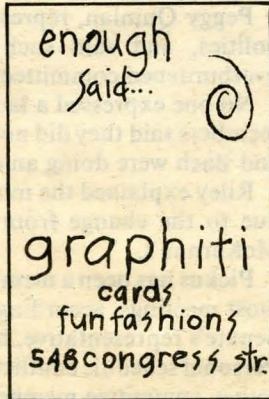
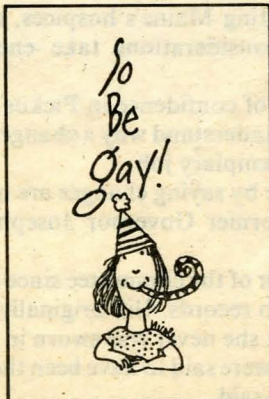
Let us all strive to take Larry's place as activists for social justice and human dignity.

In Larry's memory, we urge members of the gay and lesbian community to send donations to: Larry Connolly Education Trust Fund for his children, P.O. Box 7060 DTS, Portland, Maine 04112.

\*"It Could Have Been Me," words and music by Holly Near.



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## Letters

Dear *Our Paper*,

I read *Our Paper*. An excellent publication, and an important one.

Cornish, Maine

Dear *Our Paper*,

I like the name *Our Paper*. I don't know why you want to change it. It's great to feel possession of something collectively from a first person. Don't change it.

Karin/ Karin Franya Krut/ Spitfire

To my family at *Entre Nous*,

This is to express my heartfelt gratitude to you. You share in my disappointments and gladness and now in my new found joy. There are no words to say how much you all mean to me. I am just very grateful to have you as my family at *Entre Nous*.

Love,

Jane B.

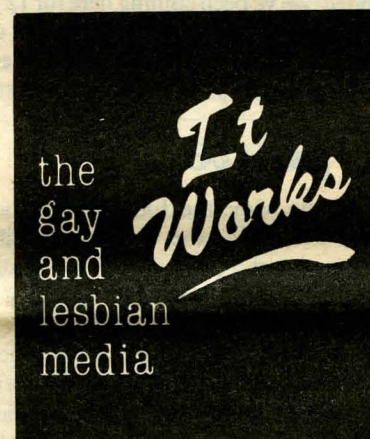
EFFECTIVE AT MIDNIGHT ON MAY 1, 1987, THIS BECOMES A FAMILY REST AREA. PICTURES AND LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS OF "OTHER VISITORS" WILL BE TAKEN.

That is the message that is tacked up all over the place at the Route 35 rest area at Sebago Lake (see enclosed, I took it quickly and left). There is nothing on the posters that identifies a particular group or law enforcement official.

I am sending this to the paper because I am concerned that people should be warned about another rash of homophobia and possible physical violence, or even blackmail. I don't know who should know, but I had to tell someone.

Sign me,

Concerned Gay Man



The AIDS Project is participating in the WCSH-TV Garage Sale, June 6, 1987 at the Portland Civic Center. We need your help to make this a successful fundraiser. Below is a list of items needed before June 1. If you can help us out, call TAP or Susan at 775-5451 x295.

- hangers
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- boxes with tops
- used clothing, hats
- household items, e.g. dishes, lamps
- second hand furniture



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Robert Levey, *The Boston Globe* 1986

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Terri Jones	Kathryn Baptista
Barb Leclerc	



# Illness as Metaphor/AIDS as Metaphor

by Barbara Leclerc

Eleven years ago, when Susan Sontag discovered she had cancer, she did not think to ask *why* the disease had struck her. With puzzlement she listened to other cancer patients express self-punishing attitudes, attitudes that erroneously implied they were responsible for their own illness. Pondering these patients' curious relationship to their disease, Sontag began her essay *Illness as Metaphor*, an exploration of how illness is viewed as something other than itself.

Initially, she intended to limit her analysis to cancer but became intrigued by striking parallels between stereotypes surrounding cancer and those surrounding tuberculosis. Both diseases have what Sontag calls "fictions of responsibility" attached to them. While cancer has been viewed as a disease of sexual repression, tuberculosis conversely, has been viewed as a manifestation of excessively passionate temperaments. Viewing cancer as sexual repres-

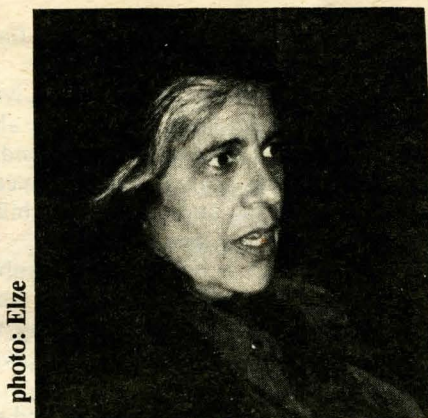


photo: Elze

Susan Sontag

sion, tuberculosis as excessive passion, or more generally, illness as metaphor, is what Sontag convincingly argued against in her essay.

On May 8, Sontag extended her insightful analysis to AIDS at the conference "AIDS: Plague, Panic and the Test of Human Values" in Augusta. She asserted

that attitudes about AIDS and its origin are rife with metaphoric thinking. AIDS is believed to have started in Africa, in the "dark continent," in the "lower" nations of the world, and to have spread through "sexual excess" to the "higher" nations. Similarly, within the United States, AIDS first began appearing in the "lower" elements of society. She also expressed criticism of the current discourse on AIDS which distinguishes risk groups from the "general population." Recognizing that "general population" means white heterosexuals, she argued that this phrase is just as suspect as the phrase "innocent victims." Both phrases, but more apparently, "innocent victims," illustrate that like cancer and tuberculosis, AIDS too has fictions of responsibility attached to it. To say that there are "innocent victims" of AIDS is to necessarily imply that there exist "guilty victims," those who themselves are to blame for their disease.

Sontag's vision of the future of AIDS is

admittedly bleak. The disease is so intractable that it is already putting into question the "triumphalist assumption" of science, the belief that all disease is capable of being conquered. She foresees AIDS producing a profound effect on sexual consciousness and practice and fears that it is heralding a new era of sexual repression. She believes that the "medicalization of repression" (the use of medical reasons to justify social repression), will continue despite civil rights efforts and, surprisingly, does not anticipate that education will be particularly effective in limiting the disease.

Though the tendency may seem overwhelming, she warns against viewing AIDS in apocalyptic terms because that will effect a "deadening of the imagination." Rather, she suggests that a healthy approach to AIDS will not only be free of metaphoric thinking but will also challenge the sexual and political hypocrisy of our culture.

## Conference-goers Urged to Remember Roots of Movement

by Brenda Buchanan

Saying that "we started out as a lesbian and gay liberation movement and we have to remain a lesbian and gay liberation movement," the keynote speaker at the May 7 National Association of Social Workers conference on professional work with lesbians and gay men challenged his audience to "raise the bottom line" of what is acceptable from a non-gay majority.

Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), a Boston-based legal organization serving all of New England, said the vision of the movement's founders — that lesbians and gay men would be free, equal and able to live openly without fear of discrimination — must never be lost.

The gains that have been made should not lull lesbians and gay men into complacency, he said, because there is much still to be done.

The very fact of the conference — the second in two years to be held in Maine — illustrated Cathcart's point. Held at a South Portland hotel and attended by about 100 mostly-professional people, its workshops were about social welfare issues of concern to lesbians and gay men.

The mainstream feel of the gathering could fool one into thinking it is the politics of reason, of negotiation with the powers that be, that will lead to the liberation of lesbians and gay men. Cathcart wasn't saying there's no place for that within the movement, but lesbians and gay men should not succumb to the illusion that it eliminates the need for more radical action.

Participants approached the day with obvious enthusiasm. Many said the only thing wrong with the program was there were too many workshops they wanted to attend and not enough time to do so.

Topics ranged from working with people with AIDS to the needs of lesbian and gay youth to issues of sexuality for disabled persons.

The list of workshop facilitators was im-

pressive; some traveled from as far as San Francisco and Minnesota. Among those leading workshops were Connie Panzarino, a well-known lesbian and disability rights activist, Fralean Curtis, an authority on alcoholism issues specific to lesbians and gay men who practices in Boston, and Joni Foster, one of the founders of Maine's Committee on Lesbian and Gay Youth.

Some lesbians and gay men attended the conference, but many participants were not gay. Some obviously were hearing for the first time about the need for specialized knowledge in order to work effectively with lesbians and gay men. For them, attending the conference may have been a radical action, and the information available there undoubtedly challenged some assumptions and previously-held beliefs.

Cathcart's speech was not so much directed at those who were being politicized about lesbian/gay issues for the first time, but at those who have been part of the movement for years and may have lost perspective on the big picture.

He referred to the AIDS crisis, the continued lack of gay-positive curriculum in public schools and anti-gay foster care legislation filed this year in Maine and New Hampshire to illustrate his keynote call for broader activism.

"We're living in a time that my generation and my community is being decimated," he said, "and we're being far too polite about it."

He cited the virtual lack of civil disobedience around AIDS issues as an example. With the exception of a pair of recent demonstrations in New York and the long-standing sit-in by PWAs in San Francisco, he said, activists have not channeled their anger about the government's foot-dragging on AIDS education and research funding into actions that demand response.

Cathcart included himself when he spoke of people "losing a sense of radicalism" in the day-to-day grind of dealing with

crisis, AIDS-related and otherwise. He told of a recent eight-day period during which he received five pain-filled phone calls — three from friends who had been diagnosed as having AIDS, one about an already-diagnosed friend who had to be hospitalized, and one announcing another friend's death. He said that number of calls is not typical for him and others living in Boston, not yet anyway. But the toll of ill people is rising, he said, and soon phones may be ringing frequently with tragic news in Boston, and in Maine, just as they already are in New York and San Francisco.

He said the dimension of the AIDS crisis has caused a sort of psychic numbing in the lesbian and gay community, leading people to accept as "normal" something which is truly horrifying.

"Our bottom line is not high enough," Cathcart said. "We're going along with (the government's lack of response on AIDS) — all of us."

A case in point are the obituaries of the vast majority of people who have died of AIDS in the past eight years, he said. Most do not list AIDS as the cause of death.

"What we see in the newspaper is nothing compared to what is going on," he said. "It enables us to think things aren't as bad as they are, when they're really much worse."

Cathcart also spoke about the need for constant vigilance in refuting the lies — both obvious and subtle — the American public is told about lesbians and gay men.

The night before the NASW conference Cathcart was in Amherst, Massachusetts, speaking at a rally called by students who were outraged that Paul Cameron, the discredited psychologist who has made a career on the talk-show/public speaking circuit with his homophobic extremism, was to appear on their campus.

Cathcart said he, too, was angry that a hate-monger had been invited to UMass by a conservative student group for the second time in two years, but he was just as angry that the protesters seemed satisfied that

holding a rally and wearing pink triangle buttons was a sufficiently strong response.

The university, which has a student population of 30,000, still does not offer any courses dealing with lesbian/gay issues, Cathcart said, and no progress has been made in stopping the often verbal and sometimes physical harassment of lesbians and gay men that occurs on campus.

"I told them, 'I'm much less interested in getting one man to stop telling lies about us than I am to get this university to tell the truth,'" Cathcart said.

He said that institution and all others in society must be pressured until they understand the need to implement whatever changes are needed to make an openly lesbian/gay presence possible every day, not just when the righteous anger of those who fancy themselves liberal has been aroused by the blatant gay-baiting of an extremist.

Cathcart also spoke about the domino effect of anti-gay foster care legislation. He said the next day would be the second anniversary of the beginning of the foster care debate in Massachusetts. That well-publicized dispute led to legislative at-

continued on page 11

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# Foster Care Bill Killed

by Brenda Buchanan

An anti-gay foster care bill was killed in mid-May when the Legislature's Human Resources Committee unanimously refused to support it.

The bill was the subject of a May 12 public hearing at which numerous experts, including a representative of the Department of Human Services, testified against it. Developed by the Maine Christian Civic League, it was based on Massachusetts' controversial policy, which virtually prohibits lesbians and gay men from becoming foster parents.

At a May 18 work session, committee members expressed a variety of concerns about the bill. Mainly, they said, they didn't want to do anything to discourage qualified people from becoming foster parents, because there's a shortage of foster homes in Maine. The constitutionality of singling out lesbians and gay men as inappropriate for parenting was questioned, and one committee member strongly urged his colleagues to reject suggestions that lesbians and gay men are dangerous to children.

"Homosexuality and child abuse are two totally separate issues," said Rep. P. Kelley Simpson of Casco.

Rep. Theone Look of Jonesboro, the bill's only remaining active sponsor, made one last pitch for committee support at the work session. She said since the public hearing, she had heard of "disastrous situations" involving foster placements with gays, implying children had been abused.

Committee members told her state law requires anyone who suspects child abuse to report their concern to the DHS, and asked if the cases to which she referred had been so reported. Look didn't answer the question. She said she had only recently heard the allegations.

DHS official Peter Walsh, who was sitting behind Look, said he had no knowledge of any such reports. He said in 1986 there were 65 reports of various types of abuse in foster homes, and none to his knowledge involved lesbian/gay homes.

Committee member Marge Clark said she was uncomfortable with Look's "innuendo," and moved the bill be withdrawn. The committee offered Look that option, but she refused, leading to speculation that she'd fight for it on the Legislature's floor. But that didn't happen, and the bill went under the hammer "ought not to pass" with no debate on May 19, meaning it cannot be proposed again until the 114th session. If Look had withdrawn the bill, she could have reintroduced it in the second half of the 113th, which begins next January.

If there was any doubt that the bill was aimed not at single persons in general, but lesbians and gay men in particular, it was dispelled May 12.

Backers of the bill, which sought to restrict foster care placements to "traditional families," came to the hearing with bibles in hand. Rep. Look, the first speaker,

offered an amendment that stated flatly "homosexual persons" should not be considered as foster parents.

A spokesperson for the Christian Civic League of Maine, standing in for director Jasper Wyman, who was inexplicably absent, said "the homosexual community has made this one of the items on its agenda."

That point was refuted later by a speaker from the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance, and other opponents of the bill criticized it for being a thinly-veiled attack on lesbians and gay men.

"The issue here is not really the problems of foster kids," Lesley Devoe, a child psychologist from Rockland, told the committee. She recalled last spring's statewide referendum on pornography, which her husband led the fight against, and which was billed by the Christian Civic League as a campaign to save Maine's children.

"Once again, children are being used as justification for what really boils down to a values conflict between adults," Devoe said.

The opposition arguments were many.

Jenny Wiggins, representing the Maine Civil Liberties Union, said "no evidence has been cited that (the bill) will solve a real problem that actually exists."

She reviewed the legal history of a court challenge to Massachusetts' foster care policy, which virtually excludes placements with lesbians and gay men. The spokesperson for the Christian Civic League acknowledged the bill was based on Massachusetts' policy, about which Wiggins said the MCLU had "grave constitutional as well as practical doubts."

Diane Elze, treasurer of MLGPA, said two Attorneys General in Massachusetts—one who recently retired after many years in office and his successor—refused to defend the commonwealth's foster care policy in court, so a private law firm had to be hired.

Elze also said an independent commission appointed by the Massachusetts Department of Human Services did a thorough study of the issue, and recommended the state drop its policy of focusing primarily on the sexual orientation of potential parents and return to a "best interest of the child" standard.

Wiggins quoted a preliminary ruling in the Massachusetts challenge, filed by two gay men who had two foster children taken from their home when their sexual orientation was the subject of an article in the *Boston Globe*. In the ruling, the judge refused the state's petition to dismiss the suit, saying sexual orientation seemed to

*continued on page 11*

## Harassment Bill Well-Received

A proposal to revise Maine's harassment law to give better protection to minorities sailed through a May 12 public hearing with no opposition and the backing of the Attorney General's office.

The bill, on which lesbian/gay activists have been working along with representatives of other minority groups, would allow people being harassed because of their real or perceived race, color, sex, ethnic background, nationality, country of origin, religious belief, age, sexual orientation or disability to obtain a court order to protect them from further abuse.

It also would require the state to document cases of hate violence and harassment, and would create a special category of crime based on bigotry to allow for stiffer penalties.

Sponsor Paul Gauvreau, a senator from Lewiston told the Judiciary Committee current laws "aren't sufficient to protect people," as court delays often mean harassment continues long after it is reported to authorities.

Assistant Attorney General Jeff Pidot, representing AG James Tierney, recommended passage of the bill, and said he would attend the committee's work session to help smooth any technical problems.

"By enacting such legislation, you would be heightening awareness of police and tormentors alike," Pidot said.

But the real persuasive power at the hearing came from those who have been harassed because of prejudice.

Bob Gravel, a former Lewiston resident who was harassed for eight months because he is gay, recounted his story, which ended with him shooting and killing a companion of his harassers'. A grand jury refused to indict Gravel, saying he acted in self defense.

"In the end, my tormentor received a \$35 fine. His friend's life was destroyed, and so was mine," Gravel said.

Sam Sok, a Cambodian refugee who lives in Springvale, told the committee of being struck on the head with a snow-covered rock while he and his children were enjoying their first snowstorm. He assumed at the time "that was how Americans played snowball," Sok told the committee.

Neville Knowles, representing the NAACP, recounted an incident on Baxter Boulevard last year when he was accosted verbally, then chased by a carload of young men shouting racist comments.

"For some of us, living in this democracy is a joke," Knowles said.

Gerry Talbot, a former state representative from Portland, also spoke of racist harassment.

"Many, many mornings I've had to clean my front lawn," he said of the garbage-throwing tactics of his harassers.

Talbot also spoke of the difference between free speech and illegal activity. Referring to pamphlets recently distributed in Gray by a person purporting to belong to the Ku Klux Klan, Talbot said that he would support the KKK's right to exist, but not to harass and intimidate people.

Potential conflict with the First Amendment's free speech guarantee troubled committee member Dan Warren of Scarborough, and he extensively questioned attorney Jenny Wiggins, who drafted the bill.

Wiggins said she saw no problem, because the bill defines hate violence as an "act," not a statement. She said she would be willing to make more specific the bill's definitions of "intimidation" and "harassment," if that would help satisfy his concerns.

Others who offered testimony included

*continued on page 5*

## AIDS Funding Looks Good

Two AIDS-related appropriations bills appeared to be faring well in the 113th Legislature, as provisions for client support services and public school educational efforts had been incorporated into Governor John McKernan's Part II budget.

That is a political advantage, signaling bipartisan and executive branch support of a proposal.

Included in the client support services bill is \$65,000 for "general" community education, the same amount appropriated for that purpose last year.

However, an AIDS Advisory Committee recommendation for another com-

*continued on page 5*

*Your Very Affordable Maine  
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## Civil Rights Bill

continued from page 1

Brannigan's sentiment, saying "I hope we live up to the respect that Larry Connolly had for every one of us."

The three remaining sponsors spoke emotionally of being inspired by Connolly to deeper understanding of human rights issues, and explained why they were committed to the bill.

Sen. Tom Andrews of Portland, anticipating the arguments of the opposition, stressed the bill's purpose.

"This legislation, despite many attempts to color it otherwise, is about fundamental civil rights," he said.

Rep. Charlene Rydell of Brunswick recalled discrimination she faced growing up Jewish in an anti-Semitic society, and said lesbians and gay men face the same discrimination today.

"This is wrong, it is un-American, and it must stop," she said.

Rep. Bill O'Gara of Westbrook spoke to the experience of Wisconsin, the only state where a civil rights bill has been passed. He said during the debate in Wisconsin, arguments similar to those heard in Maine were voiced, and since the law has been in effect, "none of the dire prophecies of its opponents have come to pass."

He urged his colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to "set aside the religious arguments and decide whether discrimination is tolerable."

### Words of Opposition

The opposition consisted solely of fundamentalists, most of whom apparently came from the same congregation. Speaker after speaker listed Windham as their hometown, leading one backer of the bill who holds conservative religious beliefs to joke late in the hearing: "I'm a member of a fundamentalist church, but I'm not from Windham."

One of the Windham fundamentalists referred to the proposal as a "homo wrongs bill," and said it "doesn't deserve a night's lodging in a municipal dump."

Another opponent, from Unity, said disease and the gay community are inextricably linked. He spoke extensively about AIDS, and was gavelled down by an irritated Brannigan when he called lesbians and gay men "gigantic biological vacuum cleaners, scouring the earth for germs."

He later wandered onto the topic of teenage pregnancy, (though he did not attempt to blame lesbians and gay men for that problem) and was gavelled down a second time when he began to quote questionable statistics about diseases he claimed are carried by lesbians and gay men.

Jasper "Jack" Wyman, director of the Christian Civic League of Maine, was rather subdued in his comments. After a long introduction stressing the Christian belief in loving the sinner even while hating the sin, he said the League opposes the bill because it would mean "acceptance of

homosexuality as a lifestyle."

Wyman called it "an enormous injustice" to compare the civil rights fight of lesbians and gay men to that of Blacks.

### More Proponents

In contrast to the homogeneity of the opposition, supporters of the bill were gay and straight, religious and not, experienced in giving testimony and first-timers.

Religious backers included Jewish and many Protestant congregations, as well as leaders of the Bangor Theological Seminary.

Members of other minority groups in Maine spoke out in favor. Former Rep. Gerry Talbot of Portland talked about knowing oppression as a Black man, and said "if we as a society can't start from the basic premise that we're human beings first... then we're all in trouble."

Sally Sutton, director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, quoted a just-released study by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force that documents a rise in violence, victimization and defamation against lesbians and gay men. Three incidents of violence against Maine lesbians and gay men were cited in the study, and Sutton said she felt "ashamed" to read them.

She said the percentages of lesbians and gay men surveyed nationally who had experienced anti-gay violence and victimization virtually matched those in a Maine study done two years ago by the MLCU and MLGPA. The studies, she said, "demonstrated that discrimination and violence is a fact of life" for lesbians and gay men.

She also noted the national statistics on murder. Eighty homicides involving gay victims were documented in 1986, the NGLTF study says, and Sutton brought that statistic home: "That's 80 Charlie Howards across the country," she said.

Victims of discrimination also spoke. One was Kay, a lesbian who was fired from a job she'd held for four years when her sexual orientation became known.

"Angry was not the word to describe my state of mind," she said.

Karen Saum, who formerly taught at the University of Maine's Augusta branch, spoke of discrimination she faced when her lesbianism became known. She lost her job and apartment, but said she was not the only one to suffer.

"I believe my students lost a good teacher and the young lesbians lost a good role model," she said.

Frances Pentlarge, the mother of a gay man, asked a commonsense question: "If God did not love gay people, then why did he make so many of them?"

### The AIDS Connection

Proponents of the bill ignored the AIDS-phobic arguments of the opponents and testified as to the AIDS connection they see.

Kristin Kreamer, a member of The AIDS Project's Board of Directors, said because AIDS has struck hardest in the gay community, there are some who are

afraid to even volunteer at The AIDS Project for fear of being perceived as gay and discriminated against.

A recent Supreme Court ruling appears to give solid legal protection to people with AIDS because the illness is considered a handicap, she said, but a legal avenue of discrimination is open in Maine—sexual orientation—if a landlord wants to evict or an employer wants to fire a gay person with AIDS.

Graham of the Bureau of Health addressed that same issue when she testified. She said lack of civil rights protection creates such fear of discrimination "people may remain in ignorance" about AIDS and ways to minimize risk.

Joni Foster of the Maine Committee for Lesbian and Gay Youth said an offshoot of the lack of civil rights for lesbians and gay men is the continued social stigma surrounding homosexuality. She told of a Maine high school library's card catalogue that stated, on the card titled "homosexuality," that interested persons should see the librarian. She also spoke of a suicidal youth confiding his sexual orientation to personnel upon arrival at a psychiatric hospital, but never being asked about it further during his entire stay.

"These silences are powerful messages," Foster said. "They tell kids, 'you don't count.'"

Support also came from unexpected quarters. Richard Barringer, the former head of the State Planning Office and one of the candidates for chancellor of the

### AIDS Legislation

continued from page 4

munity education appropriation—to pay for programs specifically targeting parents of school-aged children and which would run concurrently with school programs—was not included in McKernan's package.

The Advisory Committee recommended in March that school programs be accompanied by sessions aimed at parents, believing parents will be more likely to support and reinforce the schools' efforts if they are educated themselves.

The \$65,000 for "general" community education will pay for efforts aimed at the masses—public service announcements, newspaper advertisements, and the like.

A bill that would require health care providers to obtain a person's informed consent before testing them for the HIV antibody was headed for a public hearing the last week of May. The bill was backed by the AIDS Advisory Committee, although it split over whether such consent should be in writing or not.

Late May hearings also were scheduled on a bill to extend for a year the ban on insurance companies requiring applicants to obtain HIV antibody tests, and another calling for mandatory HIV testing for members of the National Guard.

The latter bill rankled AIDS activists, but they admitted there was little they could do, as the National Guard is part

University of Maine system last year, spoke in favor of the bill. He said simply that his life and those of his four sons had been enriched by the gay people in their lives, and diminished by watching the violence and discrimination their gay friends experience.

Other groups that sent representatives to testify in favor of the bill included the League of Women Voters, the state AIDS Advisory Committee, the Coalition of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils and the Coalition for Maine's Children.

The day after the hearing, Augusta's *Kennebec Journal* published a person-on-the-street piece which asked whether lesbians and gay men should have the same civil rights protections as other Maine citizens. Every one of the people whose responses were printed answered affirmatively.

The persistence of activists seeking civil rights protection was best explained by Sadhbh Neilan, who closed her testimony by quoting William Lloyd Garrison, who was speaking on the need to end slavery: "On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write with moderation... Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm... tell the mother to gradually extricate her baby from the fire into which it has fallen; but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest. I will not equivocate. I will not excuse. I will not retreat a single inch. And I will be heard."

of the military, which requires HIV tests of all its members.

A bill proposing the establishment of a high-risk insurance pool for those unable to obtain insurance because of their medical status was being redrafted in mid-May. The effort to create a pool grew out of concern about the insurance problems faced by people with AIDS.

—Brenda Buchanan

### Bias-Motivated Crime Bill

continued from page 4

Reza Jalali, representing the Minority Student Association at the University of Southern Maine, and Mary Lou Dyer, an attorney who works with the Maine Civil Liberties Union.

Other groups actively supporting the bill are MLGPA, the Maine Coalition on Undoing Racism, the Central Maine Indian Association, the Maine Association of Handicapped Persons, the Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine, the Refugee Resettlement Program, the Women's Legislative Agenda Coalition, MaineClergy and Laity Concerned, Caring Unlimited of Sanford, and the Maine Women's Lobby.

A work session on the bill hadn't been scheduled when *Our Paper* went to press.

—Brenda Buchanan

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# Life and AIDS

by R.J. Bass

*People who have AIDS talk of not just coping with dying, but with living. The author Susan Sontag echoed this last month when she said, "People will learn to live with it [AIDS], just like people learn to live with ... other disasters." Indeed, as AIDS spreads, it is becoming a fact of life for all of us. In our personal struggles to come to grips with AIDS, we can lose sight of the fact that a person's life does not begin at the moment of diagnosis, nor does it become a macabre death-watch fueled by grim statistics, social stigmatization, and deteriorating health. There is a great deal more to life and AIDS, as one man, in particular, is able to express in a visible and articulate fashion.*

Vincent Boulanger lives in Portland. He has AIDS. He's 24 years old.

Vincent is a Maine native. He came out when he was 14. He was out in his high school, and it wasn't a problem. "All I had to do was beat someone up once a year."

By his own description, Vincent was very promiscuous. He had lots of "boyfriends" in New York, Florida, Boston, and Portland. He says, "Indirectly, I probably slept with every gay man in Portland." Amazingly, the only sexually transmitted disease that Vincent ever had was crabs. Except, of course, for HIV infection.

Vincent believes that he probably became infected with the virus about 5 years before his AIDS diagnosis. He had left Maine after falling out with a lover and was living in California when an ex-boyfriend called from Maine to tell Vincent that he, the ex-boyfriend, had AIDS.

Almost immediately, Vincent realized that he had been experiencing some early symptoms — fatigue, weakness, swollen glands, a decreasing tolerance for alcohol consumption. Not long after, in July, 1985, Vincent was hospitalized with PCP — pneumocystis carinii pneumonia. He says the hospital staff wrote him off because of the AIDS diagnosis. After two weeks in the hospital, he checked himself out and went home. Within a week, he felt well enough to return to work.

Vincent planned carefully for himself. He returned to Maine, not only to be near friends and family, but because he could get a job and insurance coverage. To this purpose, John Holverson was supportive and helpful, hiring Vincent to work at the Portland Art Museum.

Unfortunately, not everyone was so supportive. Vincent was barred from local bars by owners who feared that he would cruise customers, and when he called a Portland-area doctor he'd seen in the past, the receptionist refused to make him an appointment because Vincent's account showed a balance due of \$35.00, which Vincent had been unaware of.

He began to see Owen Pickus, an osteopath physician who has many patients with AIDS. Luckily, Dr. Pickus accepts patients who receive Medicaid, which is currently Vincent's only means of paying for his medical expenses.

When he became too ill to work regularly, he lost his medical coverage through his job. He applied for Social Security and disabilities coverage, making him eligible for Medicaid, food stamps, and a monthly stipend of \$435.00. Bureaucratic snafus resulted in a brief loss of Medicaid, and his food stamps were reduced to \$20.00 per month because he didn't have to pay for heat in his apartment. He also receives vouchers to cover certain necessities.

Vincent has discovered that the welfare system is degrading. Drug store clerks give him a hard time about some of his purchases. For example, he recently needed to buy a support bar for his bathtub. When the one in the store didn't fit his tub, the clerk was resistant to ordering the correct equipment.

He also notices that he gets dirty looks when paying with vouchers or cashing his social security checks. Vincent has learned to be assertive to get what he needs, but some of his friends have not been so lucky. He knows of one man with AIDS who is living out of his car, and another who applied for social security when he was diagnosed with ARC who has now progressed to AIDS while waiting for his claim to be processed. While this man waits, he cannot put in another claim until the first one gets processed.

Vincent's upper-middle-class background didn't prepare him for a life on welfare. He admits that sometimes he overspends and has difficulty adjusting to the change in his economic status. He received no help in learning to live on a budget.

Nonetheless, living on the dole has heightened Vincent's natural talent for resourcefulness. He has become an expert at finding "deals" on clothing, furniture, and sale items. He also has a gift for furniture refinishing and has many nice old pieces of furniture, including a Maytag

wringer washing machine from 1926. (He even has the original warrantee, framed.) The Maytag cost him \$10.00 and he had it repainted and refurbished so that it is completely functional and looks like new. Ironically, there is now a washer and dryer in his building, so he is planning to sell this wonderful antique for as much as he can get. (It's worth \$500.00!)

Even so, Vincent cannot live on used items alone. Sometimes, he has to borrow money from friends. When his check comes, it is instantly eaten away by debt repayments and routine expenses. He supplements his income by giving talks on AIDS, for which he is usually paid under the table. For volunteering for the Visual Aid fundraiser last winter, he received a month's free rent, and he was able to obtain a humidifier through The AIDS Project. Clearly, Vincent is an expert on economic survival.

In addition to financial considerations, Vincent is obviously concerned with his health. It is nearly two years since he received his AIDS diagnosis; he sometimes wonders why he has lived so long when so many others have not survived for this length of time. He sometimes asks himself, "Why me? Why am I still alive?" At times, he feels left behind and even guilty, much like a concentration camp survivor.

Even so, the past two years have not been without struggle. He has lymphoma, which causes painful, swollen glands in his neck, back, legs, and behind his knees. He has yeast infections of the face, moustache, and even his armpit hair, which he finally had to shave off to control the fungus.

Vincent also has cryptosporidiosis and chronic stomach and esophagus discomfort leading to upset stomachs and a problem with bile coming up. He takes ketoconazole for his yeast infection and a variety of stomach relaxants and antacids.

He was seeing Dr. Pickus on a monthly basis, but lately his visits have become more frequent. Earlier this spring, he experienced "little heart attacks," and some stroke-like episodes. He was hospitalized for spinal taps to diagnose cytomegalovirus. The CMV was never found, but his spinal fluid contained HIV, the AIDS virus. After the spinal taps, he had a headache for two weeks.

He says his connective tissue aches and he has trouble walking due to deteriorating muscle tissue. This deterioration may account for the "heart attacks," which occurred after helping someone push a car

in the snow. Pickus thinks Vincent has had the virus for so long that it is beginning to cause damage on its own and not merely through predisposing him to opportunistic infections.

The discovery of HIV in Vincent's spinal fluid may account for some neurological changes that he has been experiencing. He has some memory loss, forgetfulness, and a tendency to "space out." His vision is deteriorating, with loss of peripheral vision. His field of vision is darker and tunneled. He bumps into things.

He also gets a buzzy feeling, which is a warning signal of a new problem; Vincent partially loses consciousness. This is why he needed a safety bar for his bathtub. He passes out occasionally. Once, when he fainted in the street, a passerby was very solicitous and called him a cab. Understandably, Vincent found this embarrassing.

Vincent notices other changes as well. He is easily worn out and has had to slow down considerably. In fact, he moved closer to downtown because he gets so tired just walking around.

He's also losing weight (8 pounds in two weeks) and having trouble eating. He doesn't have much appetite and sometimes makes himself eat. He finds that if he takes the time and energy to cook, which he likes to do, he is more likely to eat because of the work he puts into preparing the meal. He's become noticeably thinner, so he enjoys it a great deal when people tell him that he looks good.

As for his mental health, he says, "I don't overdo it. On a nice day, I'll buy a six pack and go to the park and lay in the sun." He knows that alcohol and tobacco are discouraged, but he feels that these indulgences improve his attitude and give him control over his life.

Also, he makes coffee every morning. "That's the only thing I do regularly." He was advised to get rid of his pet cat due to risk of infection from toxoplasmosis, which is found in cat litter, but Vincent will not do this.


In addition to maintaining control of his life, Vincent has used AIDS as a motivation to make positive changes in his personality. "I've become a nicer person, more considerate of others' feelings. I needed my friends. AIDS made me grow up."

For awhile, he went to support group meetings for people who have AIDS, ARC, or who tested positive for antibodies to the virus, but he got tired of all the passive complaining and "woe is me"

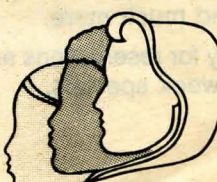
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talk. He especially grew bored with all the new seropositive people each week who seemed to need the same support and attention and were draining on the others. Vincent believes that people who are seropositive for HIV antibodies need their own special support group.

As for counseling, he says, "I was always a positive person."

He does admit, however, that "I would like someone to talk to, but I don't have the money to pay for it. Sometimes I need someone to talk to. I unload on my friends, but I can tell when my friends are upset about my being sick."

Regardless of how burdened his friends may sometimes feel, they have been supportive. He was very clear on the subject of friends. "Be sure to mention how great my friends are. I don't know where I'd be without my friends and I appreciate all of them."

He reserves a special note of recognition for his roommate Les, whom he has known for years, and who Vincent describes as "responsible, quiet, organized, and understanding." When money is especially tight, Les often advances Vincent on rent or bills.

Vincent's family has also come through. His mother found out he had AIDS because she met him at the doctor's office. She was very bold and directly asked Dr. Pickus if Vincent had AIDS.

After hearing that her son did, indeed, have AIDS, she told Vincent's dad. She didn't want to tell his father because she feared that Vincent would be disowned. Of course, this didn't happen, but Vincent's father, who has known since before Christmas that his son has AIDS, has never spoken to him about it.

The rest of Vincent's family heard about his having AIDS through a radio interview conducted a few months ago on MPBN's "Maine Things Considered." In fact, Vincent has been quite the celebrity, since he is one of the few people with AIDS in Maine who is willing to appear publicly to discuss his life and illness. He appeared pseudonymously in *Maine Times* and in the *Brunswick Times-Record*.

Vincent is actively involved with The AIDS Project. It is through TAP that he appears at lectures and presentations. He is on TAP's Board of Directors and is their fund-raiser. He recently arranged a benefit plant sale at a local greenhouse and the Portland Stage Company's benefit performance for TAP.

He's very concerned about The AIDS Project's finances. He urges the state to adequately support TAP, and he encourages private individuals to pressure their legislators, especially for more support services for people who have AIDS and ARC.

AIDS has, of course, affected Vincent's sex life. He has steady partners who are aware of his having AIDS. He misses anal receptive sex, which, due to his raw intestines and chronic diarrhea, is painfully impossible. But, he says, if he did have anal sex, he'd be sure condoms were used. Lack of anal intercourse does not mean Vincent doesn't have sexual relationships, but he has learned that "AIDS is a new type of love, and trust, and responsibility."

As for his new sexual activities, he remarks, "I got used to making love, not just having sex. It means something. I'm enjoying the person, not using them for sex."

A discussion of safe sex inevitably leads to a discussion of antibody testing. Vincent doesn't promote the test, except in the case of a woman planning pregnancy or "if you're so worried that you're making yourself sick." He does feel that the anonymous testing program affects people because the education is one-to-one.

He says that people he doesn't even know call him to receive confidential advice about the test. Additionally, he feels that people are becoming informed by word-of-mouth, and that TV can play an important role by reaching inaccessible gay and bisexual men and publicizing the AIDS-Line. Unfortunately, he says, "When more well-known people get AIDS, it will increase awareness."

Vincent confronts his mortality in a matter-of-fact fashion. "Everybody's gonna die; I just know when!" To this end, he has a living will to insure that heroic measures are not employed to prolong his life.

He has no formal will because "I have no money, but I'll make a list of what friends to give my possessions to."

Meanwhile, Vincent expresses righteous indignation on a variety of issues. He is angry because when he gives a lecture on AIDS and safe sex, straight men almost never attend, "except on college campuses."

Also, he finds that while monogamy among gay men is increasing, many single men have several partners and maybe "50-50 use safe sex."

On the subject of sex education in general, he is concerned that "people have to educate their kids about sex; tell them, don't scare them."

When it comes to money for research and treatment, he gets extremely passionate. As for drug companies, "Somebody's making money on people who are dying!" He believes that the drug companies' profits on AIDS treatments are "the only reason there's no cure...They're sending people to the moon. They can find a cure for this virus."

His anger is tinged with positivity and

pragmatism. He sees a need to educate law-makers and would like to do so.

As of this writing, Vincent is scheduled to begin AZT therapy in a week. He feels that it's very positive for him and he's looking forward to it. His low T-cell count will qualify him for the drug, and his Medicaid coverage will pay for it.

AZT will undoubtedly provide the ma-

terial for another chapter in Vincent's life story. It's a story not of just living with AIDS, but of one man's day-to-day experiences, his growth as a human being, his integration into a community, his contributions to his sisters and brothers, and AIDS — "A new type of love, and trust, and responsibility."

## To Vincent—A Tribute

They say there aren't any heroes left in the world. If that's true it's because we're looking in the wrong place. A hero need not be a Kennedy or a King or an Aquino. There are people who we see every day who are as courageous as any world leader, who do as much good in their lives as any saint.

For me, Vincent Boulanger is such a person. Vincent, as many people know, is a man with AIDS. Unlike many people with AIDS, however, Vincent has chosen to be open about his illness and to try to help as many people as possible to deal with AIDS. He has done this in many ways — by speaking at numerous public events, appearing on radio and TV, and talking with people individually. Vincent also serves on the board of directors of The AIDS Project.

Many doctors, health educators, ministers, and other people speak publicly about AIDS in Maine. None of them has the impact on their audience that Vincent has. When Vincent speaks, people listen. There is a big difference between hearing a professional speak about AIDS and listening to a handsome young man tell of his daily struggle with the disease. With honesty and with humor, Vincent reaches people.

Gary Anderson, executive director of The AIDS Project, has appeared with Vincent many times at public forums. Gary comments: "People have a hunger to hear about AIDS. Vincent generates a lot of sympathy and compassion from audiences. The most profound response was at Colby College when he spoke to 250 students. Their applause was endless and they came up in droves afterwards to meet Vincent. They really took to him. That he was gay and has AIDS didn't matter." Since then Vincent helped six Colby students create a slide and audio presentation about living with AIDS.

Vincent's unselfishness is remarkable. Several friends have reported that when they've invited him to dinner — ostensibly to make him feel better — Vincent has been the one to lend a consoling ear to help the friends deal with their own problems.

A lot of us have wondered what motivates Vincent. Why does he spend so much precious energy helping others? We all have our theories. But ask Vincent that question and you get a self-effacing "I don't know, I just like helping people."

Whatever the reason, Vincent, we appreciate it. You are a rare man. We only hope that we can live as well if we are ever in the same situation. Keep up the good work. We love you and we thank you.

Fred Berger

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I was tired of the bars...tired of the "scene" and tired of playing all of the little mindgames to find out whether this guy or that guy was interested in a person like me...or, more importantly, if I was interested in him.

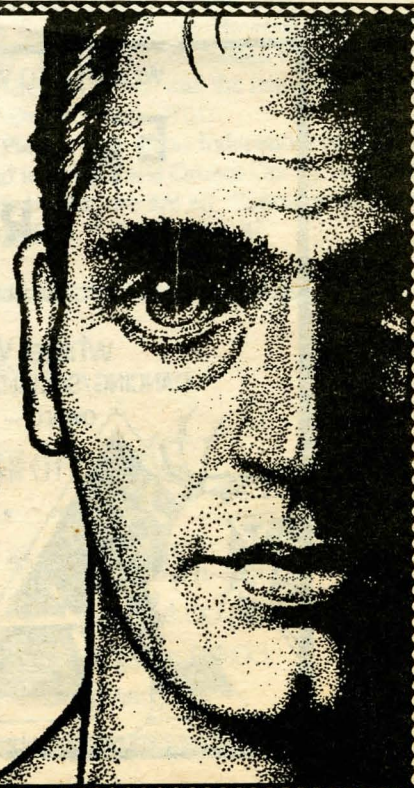
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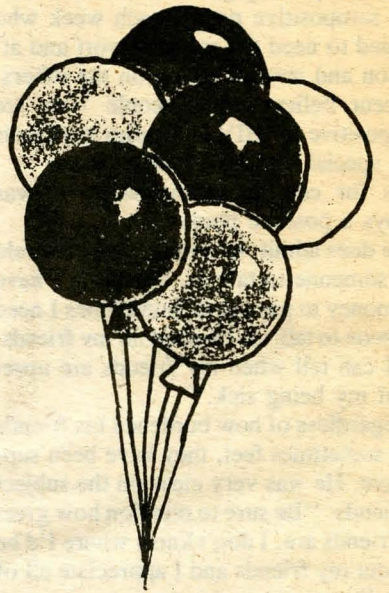
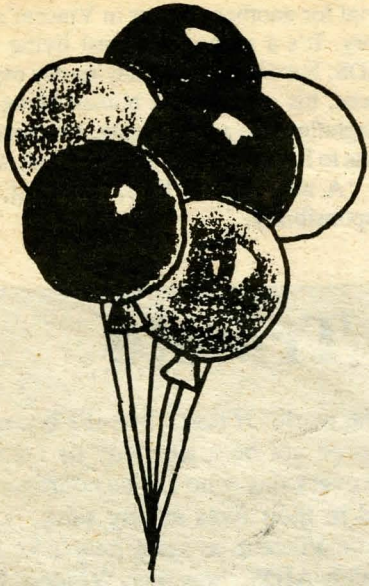
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# Portland Pride '87

June 5-7, 1987



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Ann Maguire

Portland will celebrate its first gay and lesbian pride weekend June 4-6. Portland Pride 87 will feature guest speakers, a march through downtown Portland, and social events.

Festivities will begin on Friday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. at First Parish Church where Ann Maguire will speak. Maguire, long active in Boston's gay and lesbian community, is currently the official liaison between Mayor Flynn's office and the gay and lesbian community. Maguire was a founding member of the Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, has hosted a gay radio show, and is director of the new Lesbian and Gay Community Center. She has also been the manager of Somewhere, a women's bar in Boston; and founded Legacy, a gay and lesbian social group. She is also on the board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Maguire will speak about the current state of the gay and lesbian community.

Also speaking Friday night will be Sharon Raymond of Friends and Parents of Lesbians and Gays. There will also be an open mike for others to speak, sing, play music or read poetry.

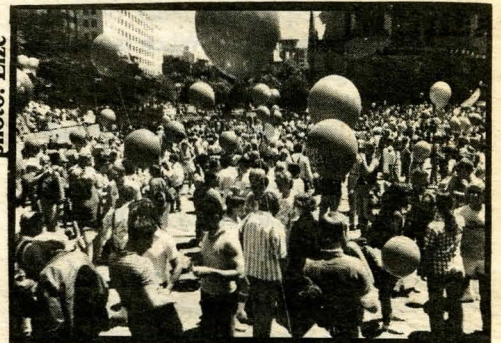
On Saturday, June 6, celebrants will meet in Deering Oaks Park (near the Park Avenue end of the footbridge) to begin a 2:00 march to Monument Square. Mar-

chers are urged to bring balloons and banners. The march will proceed on the sidewalk up High Street to Congress Square and then down Congress to Monument Square, where marchers will release their balloons.

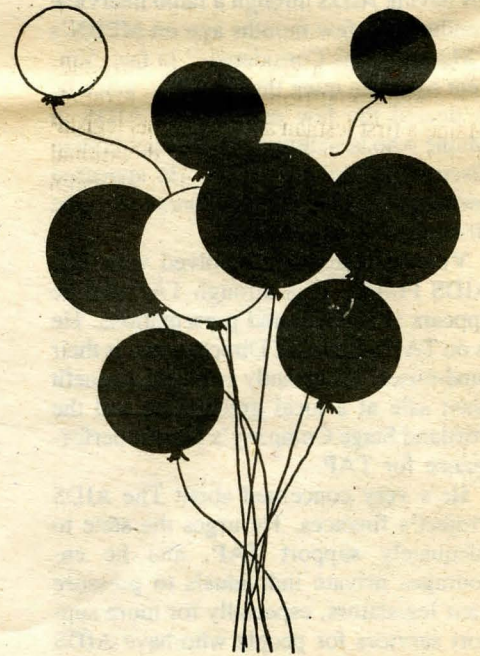
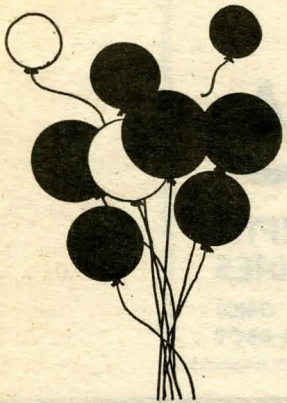
On Sunday, June 7, the celebration continues with an 11 a.m. potluck and barbecue at Two Lights State Park in Cape Elizabeth.

Portland Pride Day was organized by the Pride Committee chaired by Michael Rossetti. During the past year the committee has sponsored social events and held raffles to raise money. The committee has tried to create exciting social events as ways for gay men and lesbians to meet outside of the bars.

Rossetti hopes that the Pride Weekend will help to unify the area's gay community. He feels that many gay men and lesbians do not identify with the more political activities in the community and he has tried to "bring people together in other ways than through the bars or politics." Rossetti believes that the march, which he hopes will attract straight people as well, will make a strong public statement. "It will say that we're here to stay, we're growing as a community, and we have friends," he says. "It will be a real positive message to everybody."



Boston Pride Day 1986



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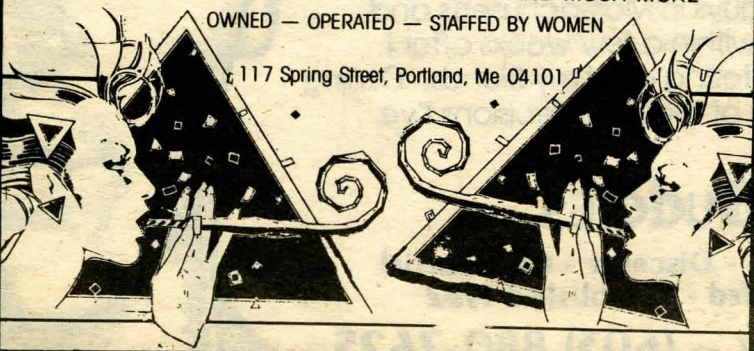
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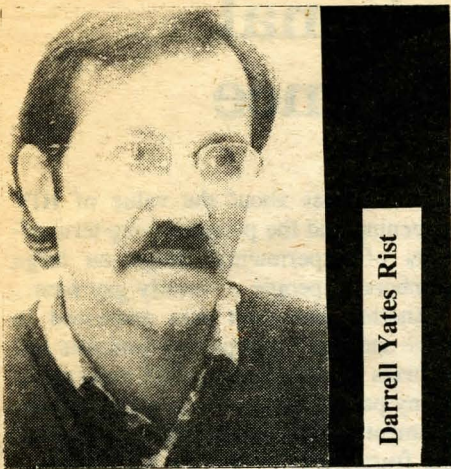
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Darrell Yates Rist

# Symposium XIV

July 3-5, 1987

Coming Out For Freedom

by JoAnne Dauphinee

The XIV Annual Maine Lesbian & Gay Symposium, in conjunction with Charlie Howard Memorial Day, will be held in the Bangor-Orono community on July 3, 4, & 5. BAGLSC (Bangor Area Gay Lesbian Straight Coalition) is proud to coordinate this year's effort, and grateful for a lot of help from our friends in Wilde-Stein, Northern Lambda Nord, Bangor Interweave, and others.

Symposium XIV will offer recreation, inspiration, funshops, workshops, films, fun and flaunting! We are "Coming Out For Freedom" and we invite you to join us. "Coming Out For Freedom" is the theme of 1987 Symposium. Not everyone can "come out," but we can all come out for freedom! We salute all those, past and present, who have come out for freedom and we include our two featured speakers among those who have inspired and pioneered our liberation movement.

Keynoting Symposium will be Lois Galgay Reckitt. Reckitt, a founding member of MAINE NOW (National Organization for Women), was a pioneer in Maine's own lesbian and gay rights movement. She was a key player in introducing, and coalition building around, Maine's first lesbian and gay rights legislation. In 1986, she was appointed National Co-Chair for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization. Reckitt has recently accepted the newly created position of Deputy Director of the HRCF.

Reckitt was elected Vice President Executive of national NOW in 1983. She serves as NOW's Affirmative Action Officer, oversees planning of the annual NOW National Conference, and acts as NOW spokeswoman to the international press. A NOW activist since 1971, she was Maine's first State Coordinator, President of Southern Maine NOW, and NOW National Board Member. Before going to Washington, D.C., she was director of the Family Crisis Shelter in Portland, Maine. She holds a B.A. from Brandeis University and an M.A. from Boston University. She is a warm, witty, informative speaker who has inspired many to come out for freedom.

On Sunday, July 5, the Charlie Howard Memorial Day Service will be held in Bangor at 10:30 a.m., followed by a noon-time march through Bangor and a gathering for human rights with special guest speaker, Darrell Yates Rist of New York.

Darrell Yates Rist is a contributing writer at *New York Native* and *Christopher Street*. His work also frequently appears in *The Advocate*, *The Village Voice*, and *Film Comment* and has been published in such periodicals as *Harper's*, *Forum*, the *New York Post* and *Paris Match*. His fiction has appeared in the short story anthology *Hot Living* (Alyson Publications,

1985), and he will be represented in *The Gay Handbook* (Doubleday, fall 1986).

Also a filmmaker, Mr. Rist has scripted and filmed both Congresswoman (and later, 1984 Democratic Vice Presidential nominee) Geraldine Ferraro and First Lady Nancy Reagan for the 1983 Encyclopedia Britannica documentary *Washington, D.C.* His comic narrative essay, "A Visit with Nancy Reagan" (1984) for *Christopher Street* and *Harper's* so angered the White House that the Reagans cancelled the formal ceremonies at which Britannica Film's president was to present the film in a gold-plated can.

With the publication of "Going to Paris Live," the six-part *Native* series on American AIDS patients who went to France for the treatment Rock Hudson made famous, Mr. Rist has made numerous media appearances, including two on

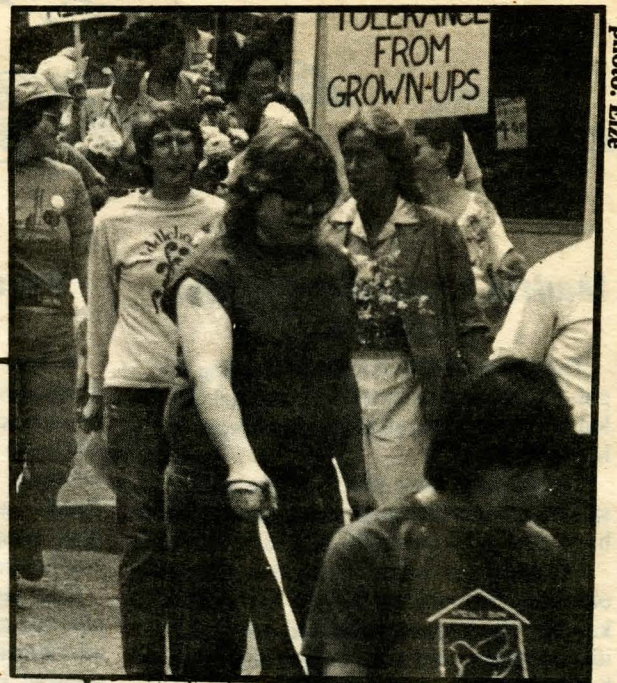


Photo: Elze

NBC's *Today Show* and one on PBS's *Front Line*, as an outspoken critic of the American social and political response to AIDS. He has been a guest as well on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* to talk about the politics of AIDS. He is a founder of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which in the fall of 1985, launched a massive campaign against homophobic reporting in various local and national media.

This year's Symposium promises to be a special one. In addition to these two powerful speakers, a wide variety of activities and workshops will be offered for your pleasure. Pre-registration is welcome, but not necessary. On Friday, July 3, registration will begin at noon. The fee is \$15, which includes Saturday night dinner. Dorm overnights are an additional \$7 per night double or \$14 single. Friday afternoon and evening will offer space to socialize, games, fun, talent and two very special workshops: Lesbian Sex, and Gaymen's Sex.

We also need and want YOUR TALENT! Do you sing? Play an instrument? Tell jokes? Do impersonations? Is there someone you know we should be trying to convince to share their talent? Please don't be shy! This is all just for fun and entertainment. Call or write to BAGLSC with your ideas. BAGLSC, c/o 87 Sunset Strip, Brewer 04412. Or, call Jo's phone machine, 989-3306.

Saturday, July 4th, the real fireworks take place. A day full of wonderful workshops, activities and fun. We begin at 9:30 a.m. with "Gayrobics," followed by the Keynote address at 10 a.m. In the evening, look forward to a community dinner, and dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. On Sunday, Charlie Howard Memorial Day, Bangor will be treated to our march for human rights, and the inspiring words of Darrell Yates Rist.

Plan now to spend Independence Weekend in Bangor and Orono! One by one, and side by side we are all "Coming Out For Freedom." Don't miss it!

## SYMPOSIUM XIV COMING OUT FOR FREEDOM

Friday, July 3, 1987

University of Maine, Orono

Registration Begins	12 Noon
Workshops	4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Lesbian Sex	
Gay Men's Sex	
Dinner Break	6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Contra Dance	8 p.m.-11 p.m.

Saturday, July 4, Orono

Low Impact Gayrobics	8 a.m.-9 a.m.
Welcome and Announcements	9:30 a.m.
Keynote Speaker	9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Lois Reckitt, N.O.W.; Human Rights Campaign Fund	
Workshop Period I	11 a.m.-12 noon
Lunch	12 noon-1 p.m.
Workshops	1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Group Dinner	6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Fireworks in Bangor (optional)	Approx. 8:30 p.m.
Dance — Damn Yankee	10 p.m.-1 a.m.

## CHARLIE HOWARD MEMORIAL DAY

Sunday, July 5, 1987

Bangor

Charlie Howard Memorial Service	10:30 a.m.
Unitarian Church, Union St.	
March Downtown	12 noon
Memorial Speaker	1 p.m.
Darrell Yates Rist	
Davenport Park, corner of Cedar & Main Streets	

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by Karen Kalustian, M.D.

## Madrid Lesbians Protest Arrests

The arrest of two women for kissing in public in Madrid's central Puerto del Sol led to a demonstration of hundreds of lesbians.

The demonstration was about the arrests specifically and the poor treatment of lesbians and gays generally in Spain.

The arrest occurred after a police officer observed two women in their early 20's kissing. He stopped them and asked for identification, and they argued that they had committed no offense. He then arrested them for contempt, resisting arrest and public outrage. They were not released from jail for two days.

Outrage is a good description of the reaction of other lesbians who organized the demonstration after hearing of the arrest. At the protest, they peacefully chanted slogans and invited women passersby to kiss them.

"It is a perfectly normal thing to do," one woman said.

\*\*\*

## Fashion Police with no Imagination

A high school student in Memphis, Tennessee was suspended from school for going to a basketball game dressed in a manner school officials deemed inappropriate. Described as wearing "a very tasteful dress, a pair of cute heels, tasteful earrings, stylish wig and discrete makeup," student Ronald Cox, 17, was escorted from the gym at Booker T. Washington High shortly after his arrival.

Principal Dorsey Patterson was indignant because Cox's outfit, he believed, had caused such a stir that the home team lost its ability to put points on the board.

"It was very disruptive," Patterson was quoted as saying. "We were up by seven points when he walked in, and after all that comotion, we were down by one."

Later, the team rallied and Washington High won the game.

## European AIDS Prevention

America's hang-ups about clear, frank, to-the-point explanations of transmission of diseases through sex is underlined when European safe sex advertising campaigns are compared to ours.

In Denmark, newspapers have run full-page ads showing Copenhagen's red light district and the caption "You can get more than a quick fuck here."

A television news anchor in Switzerland recently demonstrated how to put on a condom, using one of his fingers, rather than his penis, in the demonstration.

And in Norway, newspaper ads show an erect penis and a torso with arms raised as if ready to dive into a pool with the caption: "Think before you dive into pleasure."

\*\*\*

## Personal Advertisers Harassed

A hate group calling itself the "Great White Brotherhood of the Iron Fist" has claimed credit for placing fake personal ads in the *Windy City Times*, Chicago's lesbian/gay newspaper, and the *Chicago Reader*, a free newspaper, in order to expose respondents to their landlords, employers and neighbors.

One gay man, who is a teacher and is closeted at work, said he responded to an ad ostensibly placed by a grad student interested in meeting other gay men. He never received a response, but letters about him citing his sexual orientation were sent to his neighbors, landlord, school principal, assistant principal and all the teachers at his school.

Fortunately, the man said, he suffered no repercussions, but he was angry.

The apparent tactic of the "Brotherhood" is to copy the replies of men who respond to the personals and send them out along with a letter saying the man "may be a carrier of AIDS" and warning the addressee to "avoid this homosexual at all costs."

The group announced in a letter to the *Chicago Tribune* that it "would not stop until we have achieved the complete ruination of homosexuality."

There also has been a high level of harassment of student activists at the University of Chicago this year, and a lot of anti-gay messages displayed in the neighborhood around the school. University officials said they were investigating and that a meeting with the U.S. Attorney's office had been set up in order to determine if civil rights violations had occurred. The incidents of harassment consisted of hate mail and posters advertising a "child molesters club," and they followed the publication in the student newspaper of a petition signed by 150 people decrying anti-gay violence.

Activists were upset, however, that the university was treating the issue as one of free speech.

"Gays are the only minority left where this kind of harassment falls under free speech," said Irwin Keller of the Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association.

\*\*\*

(Sources for news in this month's Gayzette were Sojourner, Gay Community News, Lifting the Lid Off Panadora, the Advocate, The Washington Blade, Philadelphia Gay News, and The New York Native. It was compiled by Brenda Buchanan.)

The National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation held its annual conference and Fifth National AIDS Forum in Los Angeles March 26-29. Over 1,000 lesbians and gay men attended, including over 100 persons with AIDS and persons with AIDS-Related Complex (ARC).

Much of the conference was devoted to AIDS-related issues, but a number of workshops addressed more general topics such as violence against lesbians and gay men, aging, sexuality, substance abuse, parenting, and disability. One of the great strengths of the conference was the number of workshops specifically addressing AIDS as it relates to people of color and women. Those two groups often are overlooked by AIDS political and service organizations, and it is particularly easy for us in Maine to forget their significance.

Each day included large group panels and plenary sessions and three or four small group workshop sessions. There were more than 225 workshops and it was always difficult to choose among them. While it would be impossible to describe them in any detail, a few topics deserve mention.

A very powerful part of the conference was the presence and participation of persons with AIDS (PWAs) and persons with AIDS-Related Complex (PWARCs). Workshops focused on living powerfully with AIDS, alternative health care approaches and current treatment and research. Of particular interest is the growing strength of national and state PWA coalitions. More and more resources are being developed and an extensive underground is forming to create access to ribavirin and other experimental drugs.

While there is no definite evidence, many are experimenting with the possibility that they may help prevent those with ARC or who are seropositive from developing AIDS. While this development is exciting, it also raises a number of

serious issues about the value of HIV screening and the potential long-term effects of experimental drugs on large numbers of people — mostly gay men.

Another important area addressed in large and small groups was feminists and lesbians working in the AIDS movement. Many people shared the strength and excitement of coalition-building along with the frustrations of dealing with sexism. One of the best panel discussions of the conference was "Lessons From the Past: What Gay Men Can Learn from the Women's Health Movement."

A dynamic group of women discussed how key issues in the AIDS health crisis parallel those raised in the feminist health movement for years. These included the concept of self-help and taking control of our bodies, how to deliver services and be a political movement, how to deal with government funding without compromising goals. This exciting and informative session was unfortunately noticeably under-attended by gay men.

There was some good networking among those of us working in rural areas. This included information sharing about strategies, materials, and experiences, and discussions about creating our own models for services and education.

The conference provided up-to-date information, opportunities to share frustration and get re-energized, and a chance to explore lesbian and gay health issues with a large and varied group of people. Most of us came away with a feeling of connectedness and a renewed sense of motivation. Throughout the conference I often wished more of us working on AIDS-related issues in Maine could have been there.

Next year's conference will be held in Boston in June, so reduced cost and distance should allow more of us to participate.

I look forward to sharing materials and experiences from this year's conference with all who are interested.

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# Lesbian Minister to Lose Ordination

by Fred Berger

"I am a lesbian—four rather simple words, yet strung together in this way, they become a confession, an admission—no—an AFFIRMATION."

With these words to the Executive Session of the New Hampshire Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rose Mary Denman's ministry with the church will likely come to an involuntary end. In a meeting in late May, Denman is expected to be denied a continuation of her leave of absence from active ministry, a move which will effectively end her ordination. The meeting with the Executive Session will culminate Denman's unsuccessful attempts to remain both a Methodist minister and an open lesbian.

Rose Mary Denman was ordained in 1981 in Farmington, Maine, and served in Maine until 1984 when she was appointed pastor of the Conway, New Hampshire church. During that year she "discovered she was a lesbian." In the same year the United Methodist General Conference, the national decision-making body, voted that no self-avowed homosexual may be ordained in the Methodist Church. (Since that time the church has shown some tolerance of gay and lesbian ministers who are not too open.)

In June of 1985 Denman took a leave of absence to, in her words, "have time to sort out my personal theology and to live with my lover without fear of having the church take action against me." In the spring of 1987 Denman applied for an extension of her ministerial leave in order to maintain her status while she completed a transfer into the Unitarian Universalist Association. In response to her request Denman was told by Bishop George Bashore that he would recommend against the continuation because of her lesbian lifestyle and he suggested she withdraw voluntarily from the ministry. After a formal complaint

from the Bishop and support of his recommendation by a review committee, Denman has reached the final stage—a meeting with the Executive Session of the New Hampshire Annual Conference.

Although she believes the outcome of her meeting with the Executive Session is inevitable, Denman has chosen to confront the committee and force its members to examine their position. In her statement prepared for the Executive Session Denman explains that just four years ago she herself believed that gay people should not be ordained in the church. She describes how she slowly realized her lesbianism and with God's help learned to accept the love of another woman. She challenges the elders:

"... as I have searched my heart and the voice of my Creator speaking within the depths of my soul, I can do nothing but reflect the truth that I have discovered... I am a lesbian. Is it reasonable for me to deny my love for my partner, both in word and in action in order to be accepted by the law-givers and enforcers of the Church? My answer is 'NO!' Is it reasonable for you to terminate my membership in the New Hampshire Annual Conference and to declare my orders rescinded in view of all of this? I don't believe so, but you must choose where you will stand, with the law of the Church, or with the greater law of love and grace."

Denman concludes her statement: "I have shared my soul with you today. I have refused to play the political verbal gymnastics of demanding that you prove that I am not only a self-avowed, but also a practicing homosexual... I have been honest with you and vulnerable to you. I have searched for truth in my life, in my relationships with others, in my relationship with the Church, and in my relationship with God. I have shared that truth with you this evening, now you must search for your own truth."

## Conference

*continued from page 3*

tempts in Maine and New Hampshire to virtually prohibit lesbians and gay men from becoming foster parents, Cathcart said, and he urged all in attendance at the conference, especially the social work professionals, to "polish up your credentials" and go to Augusta to fight the foster care bill developed by the Christian Civic League of Maine.

The foster care debate, Cathcart said, demonstrates the need to recall the roots of the liberation movement. Civil rights are important, he said, but issues like the ability to be judged as an individual when applying to become a foster parent, rather than being automatically excluded because of sexual orientation, go beyond traditional civil rights guarantees. It was full freedom and justice the movement's founders envisioned, he said.

The day before the conference, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a gay civil rights bill by a 13-vote margin. The victory surprised even ac-

tivists, and the involvement of Governor Michael Dukakis in the lobbying effort was being played up by the press.

Cathcart's analysis of the situation was the same as that of the political pundits—that Dukakis is trying to mend fences with a gay community outraged by the Massachusetts foster care policy developed on Dukakis' say-so. It appears more important than ever that he make peace, as Gary Hart's withdrawal from the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination creates greater opportunity for Dukakis, and he certainly isn't going to be helped by the persistent "Foster Equality" demonstrations that have, so far, dogged him on the campaign trail.

Cathcart, while pleased that Dukakis worked actively for the civil rights bill, was not about to absolve him for the foster care sin.

"We'll take it for now and we'll say thank you, but let's not get carried away," he said.

## Foster Care Bill

*continued from page 4*

have no rational relationship to the well-being of the children.

Asherah Cinnamon, executive director of the Maine Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, said the bill didn't grow out of a study of the foster care system, and "isn't based on a thorough understanding of the real problems" with foster care in Maine.

"This bill would create a bureaucratic nightmare of expensive, unwieldy, and redundant decision-making in an already overburdened and underserved system," she said.

She also predicted practical problems with the bill, which set as the ideal families with two parents—one male and one female—with experience raising children, and puts single people lowest on the list.

"If 'non-traditional' families are used less or regulated more, many potential foster parents will become discouraged before they begin," Cinnamon said. "A widow who has raised one family already takes in a foster child out of the goodness and caring in her. It is not an easy job. She will probably have to use some of her own money to supplement the small stipend she will be given. She may be willing to take a hard-to-place child. How will she feel when she is told that she is not considered as good a choice now as she would have been before her husband died?"

A representative of the Maine Commission for Women offered statistics about Maine's families. There are 295,488 households, Mary Cathcart said, and 21 percent are comprised of single people. Thirty-five percent are married with no children or parenting experience, and 25 percent are married with both parents working. Only 13 percent are married with one parent working, she said.

She urged the committee to defeat the bill, saying "when the problem with foster children is that there aren't enough families to take them in, putting artificial barriers up for people who are able and want to love these children is bad public policy."

Lucie Bauer of the National Organization for Women called the bill "just plain wrong," and said it was clear to NOW that "the Christian Civic League of Maine is attempting to put their own view of traditional family values ahead of the best interests of Maine's children."

She spoke of her own experiences as a lesbian who is co-parenting a child, and said a custody battle resulted in a Knox County District Court judge finding that "not only are my partner and I fit parents, but her son is flourishing in our care."

Peter Walsh, the DHS official in charge of foster care placements, also testified against the bill. He said the goal of foster care workers is to match "the needs of the child with the most appropriate available resources," and said sometimes that means placement with a single person.

"Single persons may have a great deal of potential to be high-quality foster parents," Walsh said. He urged the committee to reject the bill, saying it could cause harm to children.

The parade of professional people was effective, but it was a child who testified most eloquently.

Fourteen-year-old Shawn told the committee of being abused "sexually, physically, emotionally, mentally and psychologically" in her father's "traditional home" after her parents were divorced four years ago. Custody was given to him rather than her mother, she said, because her mother is a lesbian.

Last summer, after her mother found out about the abuse, she fought for and won custody of Shawn and her two younger sisters.

"Now my sisters and I live in a non-traditional family where we are loved, cared for, and safe," she said. "I beg you—do not pass the foster parent bill. These are children, not games to see who is better. Children need love. It should not matter where that love is coming from."

Several people were in tears at the end of Shawn's testimony, and Senate committee chair Paul Gauvreau commended her for her courage in speaking out.

Elze, testifying for MLGPA, handed a prepared statement to the committee but spoke extemporaneously in response to Look's last-minute amendment.

She called the bill "particularly heinous" because it "victimizes and exploits an already victimized and exploited" population—children in need of foster care.

She said if sexual orientation were to be made the only factor in placing foster children, "the only rational decision" the state could make would be to prohibit placements in homes with heterosexual men, because every study ever done indicates children are most at risk from heterosexual men. The statistics, Elze said, illustrate the wrongheadedness of defining who is and is not qualified to be a foster parent on the basis of sexual orientation.

Elze also spoke in defense of the lesbian and gay parents and foster parents in Maine, and assured the committee there are many of the former and some of the latter. In her years working in social welfare, she said, she never had a case of abuse involving a child in a gay home.

"The Department of Human Services would truly be blessed if more lesbian and gay people came forward to be foster parents," she said.

Two of the bill's original sponsors, Rep. Jean Dellert of Gardiner and Rep. Jo Anne LaPointe of Auburn, withdrew their names before the hearing. They reportedly told colleagues they didn't understand the bill's purpose when they signed on. Both are members of the Human Resources Committee.

The other original sponsor was Sen. Edwin Randall of East Machias. He did not attend the hearing, so his commitment to the bill was questionable, opponents said.

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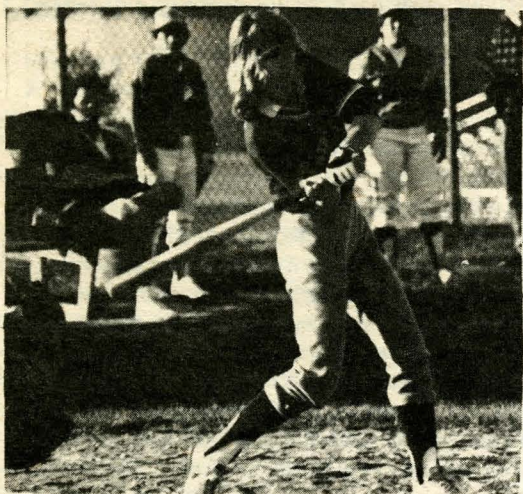
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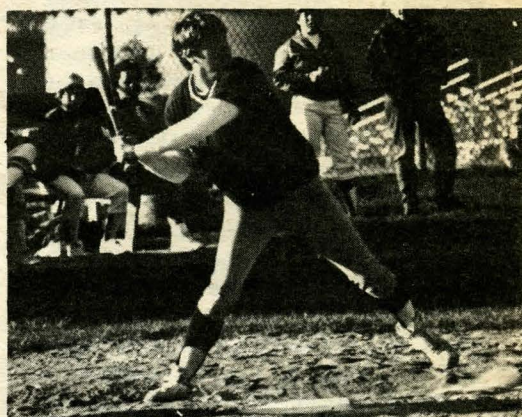
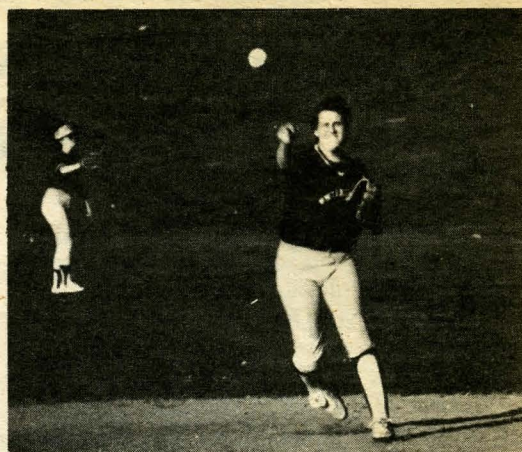



## Entre Nous 1987 Softball Schedule

May 19	vs. Brodericks Sandwich Shop	(Field #1)
May 20	Maine Gold and Silver	(Field #2)
May 27	Willard Daggett	(#2)
May 29	Artful Dodgers	(#1)
June 4	Brodericks Sandwich Shop	(#2)
June 5	Maine Gold and Silver	(#1)
June 10	Willard Daggett	(#1)
June 11	Artful Dodgers	(#2)
June 15	Brodericks Sandwich Shop	(#1)
June 17	Maine Gold and Silver	(#1)
June 22	Artful Dodgers	(#1)
June 26	Brodericks Sandwich Shop	(#2)
June 29	Maine Gold and Silver	(#2)
June 30	Willard Daggett	(#2)
July 2	Artful Dodgers	(#1)
July 9	Brodericks Sandwich Shop	(#2)
July 10	Maine Gold and Silver	(#1)
July 14	Willard Daggett	(#1)
July 15	Artful Dodgers	(#2)

All games start at 6:15 p.m. and are at South Portland High School. Field #1 is next to the church and Field #2 is next to the tennis courts.

photos: Brenda Buchanan





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# A High Energy Evening of Feminist Music and Humor

by Liz Brauer

Deidre McCalla, an Olivia recording artist, and Kate Clinton, feminist humorist, provided an evening of musical and comedy entertainment at the Unitarian Church on Saturday, May 16. More than 550 people attended the benefit for the Women's Community Project and Maine NOW PAC. This was the last of three concerts produced by Pine Cone Productions to benefit the WCP.

Deidre McCalla led off the bill with her solo act. She is touring nationally to promote her first album on Olivia Records, "Don't Doubt It." She was warmly received in her Maine premiere.

McCalla performed many of her own compositions, occasionally playing songs written by friends from her hometown: New York City. Growing up in the Bronx, Deidre has developed a folk style, although she plays many kinds of songs.

Starting off the show with "Wake Me Up Gently" involved the audience right away with her music.

Deidre shared many anecdotes with the audience. One was about her support group called AVF: Adult Victims of Felines. A relationship with a cat owner can be quite difficult. Deidre thinks it's really having two relationships: one with the owner and one with the cat. Flashing her dark eyes, she related quite well the panic of a non-owner towards a whining feline.

Another of Deidre's stories was about her relationship with her mother. She could still get her Mom to take her shopping AND pay the bill. Deidre sang a sentimental song about the comfort that Mama's baby girl could always find. A



DEIDRE MCCALLA

baby in the audience, showing early musical talent, cooed at exactly the right time. Deidre wants the baby on her next album.

Deidre's repertoire includes a powerful song about our attitude toward the environment ("Oh The Earth") and several songs about a broken heart ("This Part Of The World," "Did You Think I Didn't Know?" and "Nothing Ventured.")

Deidre McCalla has a beautiful voice with an excellent range. She is an especially powerful tenor. I don't think she's reached her potential, either. I'm curious

to see what she does on her new album, to be released this fall by Olivia. You can see her at the New England Women's Musical Retreat (NEWMR) over Labor Day weekend in Rhode Island.

Kate Clinton, in her Western-style black jacket, shiny white shirt and white bola tie, took over for the second set. She was "Dale Evans from hell." It was her third annual spring appearance in Maine. This time, rather than a short trip from upstate New York, her tour is out of Los Angeles, California.

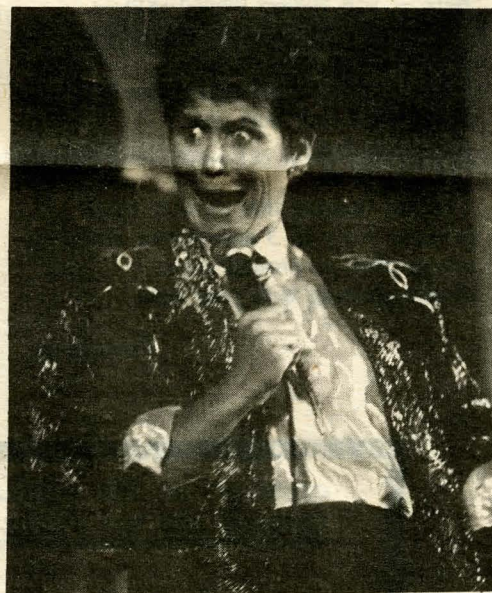
How has the move affected her? Kate used to "de-dyke" the apartment when relatives came for an afternoon visit. Now they come for a two-week vacation and she "dykes up." Her goal is to get rid of them in less than two days. Her strategy is to put a magazine rack of *On Our Backs* in the bathroom and a 10-speed variable vibrator in the bedroom.

Her current targets included the fundamentalists preaching on the sidewalk before the show. With their quarter-inch stubble, they were admonishing the audience about short hair? She admitted that she is a Contra-gate addict; she can't stop watching the hearings, just like her mother couldn't stop watching Watergate. Kate claims there is a medical explanation for the whole Iran-Contra scandal: the Washington bureaucrats are suffering from CRI, Cranial-Rectal Inversion.

Kate introduced Mona, a 40,000 year old bull daggar dyke. Mona "channels" through Kate and appears when Kate goes into a trance. The audience could ask questions of Mona but was a little lost for a topic. This is a new part of Kate's routine and she needs to prepare the audience.

Kate recently appeared on "Comedy Tonight," a nationally-syndicated TV show, the first open lesbian to do so. The audience liked her until they heard what she was talking about. Her calendar has also included "Gay Awareness Week" events at various universities, where the crowds haven't been the most sympathetic. She said it was good to be back among her own kind. Kate, it was good to have you back.

photo: Barb Puls



KATE CLINTON

photos: Barb Puls

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union

on an evening in june  
you touched me  
gently softly  
with

hands clasped tightly  
as bodies entwine  
in a mesh  
of

love holding on  
to feelings which  
pour from  
out

hearts never speaking  
a silence as intimacy  
brushes upon  
our

lips and tongues  
meet  
in the night's  
whispering  
nakedness...

we love  
steven j. hardy



## After a fashion

In retrospect  
it seems to have happened  
in a small and secret place.  
A drawer, perhaps.  
we the socks mis-matched  
twisting with a static sort of passion.  
Even as the drawer was closed  
the ritual of fabric and air lingers  
with the fizz and crack of light.  
Much later  
I met you in a place  
with music bursting and falling  
like gasoline from its corners.  
you were dressed in black  
your loud laughter about to ignite the  
entire room.

Brian Crabtree

## Safe Love

Met a new man last night  
Recited my safe sex catechism as my  
tongue explored his body  
Here's okay, not here, here.  
Whew! Made it to orgasm without a  
misstep. Safe.

What about safe love...  
Can I tell him how I feel?  
Do I ask if he's seeing anyone?  
Shall I take him to meet my parents?  
Need my guidelines — quick  
Help!

Fred Berger

## Soap Opera

They are a bag of clothes,  
your thoughts.  
Pixillating into suits of motion,  
sparring for dominance  
at the edges of your skull.  
Erotic, mixed-up...  
their flies hanging open,  
their lapels smeared with sweat.  
You need the detergent of sleep  
the sudsy backwash of dreams  
to solve your laundry problems.

Brian Crabtree

## stretch

You lean back almost seeming invitation  
your arms thrust back, strong.  
Fists clenched.  
Your neck bared except for a few strands  
of hair.  
Bare — soft always tanned skin —  
naked — defenseless before me.  
You trust me that much  
to lay your vulnerability inches from me  
not that I'd ever hurt you  
you know that.

You are wearing that sweater again  
brilliant red with 3 aquamarine stripes  
across chest — around arms;  
almost glowing with your light.

Prem Arun

## Sleep -2

I turned as you slept  
to admire your body,  
pressed against the sheets.  
Your long, slender legs,  
your thin waist,  
your soft supple breast,  
the firmness of the sinews  
of your upper arm,  
all played seductively  
upon my latent emotions.  
I watched your chest move  
with each carefree breath.  
I saw you move.

Twitch.  
Grunt.  
Rest.

For, what seemed like hours,  
I watched you  
as you traveled  
through your dreams.  
I moved closer to you;  
felt your warmth,  
the softness  
of your skin.

I drifted to sleep  
lulled by your beauty.  
I felt at peace,  
lying next to you.

Prem Arun

## CALENDAR OF THE PORTLAND LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE EVENTS

### FRIDAY, JUNE 5:

"THE SOUND OF OUR OWN VOICES"  
7:30 P.M., First Parish  
425 Congress Street, Portland  
Music by local performers,  
poetry, open podium, FREE  
Speakers:  
Parents and Friends of Gays;  
Ann Maguire, Liaison to the  
Lesbian and Gay Community  
For the Mayor's Office, Boston

### SATURDAY, JUNE 6:

THE LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE MARCH  
"A Family of Friends"  
Balloon Release  
Receptions follow

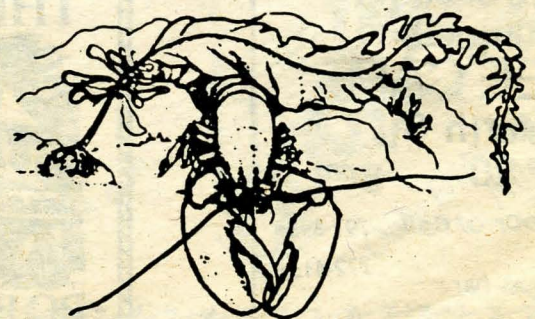
### SUNDAY, JUNE 7:

Pride's ocean-side BBQ at  
Two Lights State Park, off  
Rt. 77, Cape Elizabeth

INFORMATION ON PRIDE EVENTS,  
PORTLAND AREA ACCOMMODATIONS  
OR TRAVEL: (207) 883-6934

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YOUR OWN REASON TO JOIN US DURING OUR PRIDE WEEKEND:

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6**  
**Lesbian & Gay Pride Day**  
**PORTLAND**  
**Pride MAINE**  
Info-line: (207) 883-6934





# Announcements

**All Singing! All Dancing! All Concerned,** an evening of dance and song by local performers will take place Friday night, May 29 at 7:30 at the Portland Performing Arts Center. The event will benefit The AIDS Project. Tickets are available by calling Brian Crabtree at 774-6504 or 773-2562.

**Evita**, the Tony award-winning musical, will be presented by the Portland Players on Thursday, June 4 at the Phyllis Thaxter Theater in South Portland as a benefit for The Maine Health Foundation. Tickets are \$10 and available at Entre Nous, Underground, Backstreet and Cycles.

**Portland Pride** will sponsor a bus from Portland to the Boston Gay and Lesbian Pride Day celebration on Saturday, June 13. Cost is \$14 round trip including a buffet breakfast at Entre Nous. Contact Alan Trautmann at 775-1909 or mail to 120 Chadwick St., Portland, 04101.

**WOMLAND** (Womn Owing Maine Land) Trust is a circle of womn who have come together with the purpose of acquiring land to protect and replenish it and to provide womn with the opportunity to do together what most of us cannot do alone — have access to land for living, learning, and re-creating. The next trust meeting will be held in central Maine on June 13. For more information on how you can be involved with this network send a S.A.S.E. to Chris of Coventree, Troy 04987.

Summer solstice full moon gathering being held in central Maine on 13 June. Starting with a potluck at 6 p.m. and followed by energy healing and fire circles, this is a womn only and chemical free gathering. Camping space is available for womn traveling distances who wish to stay overnight. For a map send a S.A.S.E. to Gathering Ground, Dexter 04930.

Turnabout and New Hope for Women will co-sponsor Karin Spitfire in her dance narrative, "Incest: It's All Relative," on Saturday, May 30th at 7:30 pm at the Belfast Free Library.

Spitfire is an incest survivor and performing artist who created this 40-minute piece as the unraveling and reweaving of her own experience as a survivor. Performed nationally, the piece has continually provided an opportunity for audiences to break the silence about incest.

Joining Spitfire will be Barbara Maria in a collaborative piece entitled, "The Buck Stops Here." Barbara Maria is a poet, writer, and substance abuse counselor from the Midcoast area.

Turnabout is a drug and alcohol abuse educational program in Waldo County. New Hope for Women is a volunteer organization providing services to battered women and their children in Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo counties.

The admission fee is \$3.00 at the door. For more information call New Hope for Women, 594-2128.



An organizational meeting to establish a support network in Hancock County for persons affected by AIDS will be held on Thursday, June 25, 1987, at 7:30 P.M. at the Community Health & Counseling Services building, 415 Water Street in Ellsworth. It is hoped that this meeting will bring together Hancock County community members from all walks of life who share a common interest in giving and/or receiving support around the challenge AIDS presents to each and every one of us.

You may obtain more information about this meeting by calling 667-5304.

# BOOK REVIEW

by Mickey

**GAY PARENTING, Joy Schulenburg, Anchor Press/Doubleday c.1985 \$9.95**

This book was given to me for my 30th birthday. I received a lot of sympathy gifts (my kid brother told me it was almost time to grow up), but no present gave me as much as this book.

You know how you find those rare books that make you nod and say, "Ain't that the truth," or "Yeah, I know what she means!" to no one in particular?

For me, *Gay Parenting* was almost as relieving as the first time I read *Rubyfruit Jungle*, my first lesbian book, when you discover there are others "like you."

Ms. Schulenburg's research for her book (she is the mother of a three-year-old) included questionnaires and personal discussions with gay and lesbian parents and their children from all over the country.

Although there were many situations different than my own, I could relate to so much of what people in the book shared.

Schulenburg deals with our isolation.

Our childless friends (gay or straight) don't really understand our situation, yet we don't fit into the "HET" parent society either.

Other topics include: to hide, or not to hide; coming out to your children, co-parenting, adoption, artificial insemination (and the concerns of AIDS transmitted in this manner), custody problems and choosing your attorney if necessary. She also effectively shares experiences of lovers of parents and their feelings about being involved with someone whose main concern is not them.

Schulenburg also provides over 35 pages of support groups; books and periodicals for parents, children, and friends of gay parents; and addresses for each one. Did you know there were story books for young children about growing up with a gay father or lesbian mother?

I highly recommend this book to all gay and lesbian parents and urge friends and lovers to read it if you want to gain a better understanding of the gay/lesbian parents in your life.

# Classifieds

**GWM, 31, professional, loving, secure, good looks, seeks ages 30-45 for friendship and possible relationship.** I'm looking for a sincere, intelligent, loving individual who's looking for that special someone, as I am. Let's get to know one another. Write advertiser #32, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

**GWF, 20, black hair, blue eyes, powerfully built, desperately seeking "Susan!"** I enjoy music, dancing, and pleasing myself (and others) to the fullest! Discretion on the phone is requested. If interested, please call Heather at (207) 288-5719. I welcome all "inquiries!"

**Gay Male, 34, possibly returning to college, looking for one or two gay males between thirty and forty to either share current apartment with or look for apartment starting in June or July.** Occupant, P.O. Box 542, Kittery, ME 03904!

**Apartment for rent, Dow St., 1 bedroom, \$425/month plus utilities and deposit.** Available June 1. 774-3373.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** I have a two-bedroom apt. to share in the East Deering section of Portland. I am 25, student, with job. \$225.00 a month + gas and electric, phone and cable optional. Please write Steve Doyle, 56 E. Kidder St., Portland, ME 04103.

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**Blueberry Cove Workshops 1987.** Women's Building School, 7/5-10; Music and Healing — Susan Savell, 7/10-12; Herbs and Healing — Deb Soule and Arifa Bohler, 7/17-19; Psychosynthesis — Ramsey Raymond and Mariel Kinsey, 7/24-26; Dreamwork, Healing and Creativity — Ramsey Raymond, 7/31-8/2; Women's Beginners Sailing School, 7/26-31 and 8/23-28; Women in Recovery from Chemical Dependency, 8/16-21; Women's Creative Writing weekend with writer Joan Larkin; Crowsfeet Dance Collective, 9/11-13; Libana — Eastern European Song and Dance from Women's Traditions, 9/25-27. For more information: HCR, Box 520, Tenants Harbor, Maine 04860, (207) 372-6353.

**GMC, 40s and 20s looking for safe-sex good times in our No. NH home with singles, couples, multiples.** Write to Alan, POB 294, Conway, NH, 03818 or call (603) 367-8304.

**ROOMMATE WANTED:** I have a two-bedroom apt. to share in the East Deering section of Portland. I am 25, student, with job. \$225.00 a month + gas and electric, phone and cable optional. Please write Steve Doyle, 56 E. Kidder St., Portland, ME 04103.

**Gay male friend wanted!** GWM, 48, 185 lbs. Interests include health, travel, arts, outdoors, carpentry, etc. Let's exchange letters, visits, and good times. Ron, P.O. Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073

**Can you qualify?** 53-year-old GWM professional is searching for a young GM for a long-term, one-to-one relationship. Honesty, sincerity, loyalty, and devotion both required and extended. All inquiries will receive a response. Write Advertiser #33, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104.

**GWM, 24, 5'10", 140 lbs., hazel eyes, brown hair, slim, clean, attractive, discreet.** Enjoy movies, dancing, beach, ski, weights, spending a romantic nite with that special someone like myself between 18-26 slim, attractive, young. Have home near Portland, work in Conway, NH. Send photo, phone, address to DLS, P.O. Box 869, Conway, NH 03818.

**Bed and Breakfast accomodations for women at Kellen Farm, a peaceful country setting in Ashfield, MA.** Enjoy sheep and goats; swim and hike nearby; visit Northampton and Tanglewood. Brochure. 413-628-4703.

**HAIRY MEN!** National adlists for bears and smooth or hairy trappers! If you love fur, this is the list! Information? Send \$2.00 to: MAN HAIR, 59 West 10th St., NYC 10011.

**The rate for classifieds is \$4 for 30 words, 10¢ for each additional word. For personals add \$2 for handling. All ads must be prepaid. Mail ads to Our Paper, P.O. Box 10744, Portland, ME 04104. We ask that you not use sexually explicit language in your personals. Responses to personals will not be opened by Our Paper and will be forwarded to you twice monthly.**

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# Lesbigay Network

**AIDS Action of Central Maine**  
P.O. Box 3113  
Lewiston, Me. 04240  
AIDS Hotline 782-6113

**AIDS-Line**  
775-1267 and 1-800-851-AIDS  
Mon. & Wed. 6-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**The AIDS Project**  
48 Deering St.  
Portland, Me. 04101

**Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance**  
Box 569  
Bates College  
Lewiston, ME 04240

**Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)**  
c/o 87 Sunset Strip  
Brwer, Me. 04412

**Bowdoin Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance**  
Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me. 04011

**Chiltern Mountain Club**  
P.O. Box 407  
Boston, Mass. 02117  
207-883-6934

**DELGO**  
Unitarian Church  
126 Union St.  
Bangor, Me. 04401  
Tel: 942-6503

**Dignity/Maine**  
P.O. Box 8113  
Portland, Me. 04104

**Feminist Spiritual Community**  
9 Deering St.  
P.O. Box 3771  
Portland, Me. 04104  
773-2294

**Fredericton Lesbians and Gays**  
Box 1556, Station A  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

**Free To Be**  
11 King St.  
Augusta, Me. 04330

**Friends and Parents of Gays**  
725-4769 (Brunswick)

**GLM (Gais et Lesbiennes de Moncton)**  
C.P. 7102  
Riverview, N.B., Canada

**Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous**  
c/o First Parish Unitarian Church  
425 Congress St.  
Portland 04101

**Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group**  
780-4085 or 772-4741  
Portland

**Gay/Lesbian Alliance**  
92 Bedford St.  
Portland 04102  
780-4085

**Gay and Lesbian Genealogy Club**  
P.O. Box 1044  
Bangor, ME 04401

**Gay Men Social Association**  
P.O. Box 294  
Conway, N.H. 03818  
Tel: 603-367-8304

**Greater Portland N.O.W.**  
P.O. Box 4012 Station A  
Portland 04101

**Harbor Masters Inc.**  
P.O. Box 4044  
Portland, Me. 04101  
**Lesbian/Gay Committee**  
Me. Chapter Nat'l. Assoc. of Social Workers  
P.O. Box 5112, Station A  
Portland, Me. 04101

**Lovers Only Friendship Club**  
Statewide Connections  
P.O. Box 1044  
Bangor, ME 04401

**Maine Bisexual People's Network**  
P.O. Box 1792  
Portland, Me. 04104  
780-4085 (messages)

**Maine Connection**  
P.O. Box 5245,  
Station A  
Portland, Me. 04102

**Maine Health Foundation, Inc.**  
P.O. box 7329 DTS  
Portland 04112

**Maine Lesbian Feminists**  
P.O. Box 125  
Belfast 04915

**Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance**  
P.O. Box 108  
Yarmouth, ME. 04096

**New Hampshire Citizens Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Rights**  
P.O. Box 756  
Contoocook, N.H. 03329  
603-228-9009

**Northern Lambda Nord**  
P.O. Box 990  
Caribou, Me. 04736  
NLN gay Phoneline, 498-2088

**Our Paper**  
P.O. Box 10744  
Portland, Me. 04104

**Portland Area Men's Group (PGM)**  
c/o P.O. Box 681  
Scarborough, Me. 04074

**Portland Pride Committee**  
P.O. Box 5112, Sta. A  
Portland, Me. 04112  
883-6934

**Seacoast Gay Men**  
P.O. Box 1394  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

**USM Women's Forum**  
University of Southern Maine  
92 Bedford St.  
Portland 04103

**Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights (VLGR)**  
Box 281  
Hinesburg, VT 05461

**Wilde-Stein Club**  
Memorial Union  
University of Maine - Orono  
Orono 04469

**Women's Community Project**  
P.O. Box 3733  
Portland, Me. 04104

## Meetings

### SUNDAYS

**Bates Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance** — for discussion, support and planning — every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. in Hirasawa Lounge, Chase Hall, Bates College, Lewiston.

**Northern Lambda Nord** — last Sunday of the month — business meeting, 1 p.m. followed by potluck.

**Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA)** — every third Sunday of the month. Meetings rotated throughout state. See Calendar listing for location and time.

**Dignity/Maine**, every Sunday, 5:30-7 p.m., First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland (rear entrance).

**Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)** meets the first Sundays and third Thursdays of every month at 87 Sunset Strip in Brewer at 7:00 p.m.

### MONDAYS

**Feminist Spiritual Community** — every Monday at 7 p.m., Friends Meeting House, Forest Ave., Portland, 773-2294 (come early).

**AIDS Action of Central Maine** — first Monday of every month at Sportsman's, 2 Bates St., Lewiston, 8 p.m. Call Phil Ellis, 784-5047 or 782-6113.

**Seacoast Gay Men** — every Monday, 7-9 p.m. (except first Monday and holidays). Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH (side door near basement). Call Daryl (603) 335-4294.

**Greater Bangor NOW**, fourth Monday of every month, 7-9 p.m. Call 989-3306 for info.

**Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA)** — open discussion with focus of gay/lesbian issues, 7:30-9 p.m. YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland.

### TUESDAYS

**Greater Portland N.O.W.** — fourth Tuesday of the month, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, 7:30 p.m.

**Alcoholics Anonymous — Gays in Sobriety** — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., First Parish Universalist-Unitarian Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

**Gay/Lesbian Al-Anon** — every Tuesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m., First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** — last Tuesday of the month, 7:30, First Parish Church Pilgrim House, 9 Cleveland St., Brunswick. Call 725-4769 for information.

**Our Paper staff meeting** — every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. 9 Deering St., Portland. New members are welcome.

### THURSDAYS

**Bowdoin Gay/Lesbian/Straight Alliance**, every Thursday, 7-9 p.m., Chase Barn, Bowdoin College, Brunswick.

**Pride Committee** business and planning meeting, last Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m., 48 Deering St., Portland. All welcome. Call 883-6934.

**Lesbian/Gay Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Thursday, discussion meeting at 8 p.m., Unitarian Church, Main Street, Bangor.

**VLGR (Vermonters for Lesbian and Gay Rights)** meets first and third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Peace and Justice Center, 186 College St., Burlington, VT.

**Wilde-Stein Club** — Thursday evening 6-9 p.m., Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO.

**Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Thursday, step meeting, 7:30 p.m. First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

### FRIDAYS

**Free To Be Group of AA** — meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Jewett Hall, UMA, room 114.

**Gay/Lesbian Alliance** — every other Friday at 7 p.m., 92 Bedford St., Portland, 780-4085.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets every Friday, 8-9:30 p.m. — Gays Together in Sobriety (open discussion), Christ Episcopal Church, 80 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH.

### SATURDAYS

**Free To Be Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous** — every Saturday, 8 p.m., The House, 60 Oak St. (corner Blake), Lewiston.

**Bangor Area Gay/Lesbian/Straight Coalition (BAGLSC)** dances meet the first and third Saturdays of each month from 8:00 to 1:00 at the old Bangor Community College Student Union.

## Calendar

### Friday, May 29

All Singing! All Dancing! All Concerned, at the Portland Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m., to benefit The AIDS Project, call 774-6504 or 773-2562.

### Wed.-Sat., June 3-7

"Caravaggio" at The Movies, 10 Exchange Street, Portland.

### Thursday, June 4

"Evita" at the Phyllis Thaxter Theater in South Portland, to benefit The Maine Health Foundation, \$10.

### Fri.-Sun., June 5-7

Portland Pride Weekend.

### Saturday, June 6

BAGLSC and INTERWEAVE dance, Student Union of University College,

Bangor, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., non-alcoholic.

WCSH Garage Sale, Portland, with The AIDS Project participating, Cumberland County Civic Center.

### Sunday, June 14

2 p.m., Peace Walk-a-thons statewide sponsored by Maine Freeze Campaign. 865-9659 or 772-0680.

### Saturday, June 20

BAGLSC and INTERWEAVE dance, see June 6 listing.

### Thursday, June 25

Hancock County AIDS group meeting.

### Fri.-Sun., July 3-5

Symposium XIV and Charlie Howard Memorial Day, in Orono and Bangor.

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